

The Unofficial Temple Of The Jedi Order



Jedi Liturgy & Prayer Book

Prayers, Blessings, Ceremonies and Quatrains

Official Temple of the Jedi Order text and Member Contributions

2014
1st Edition

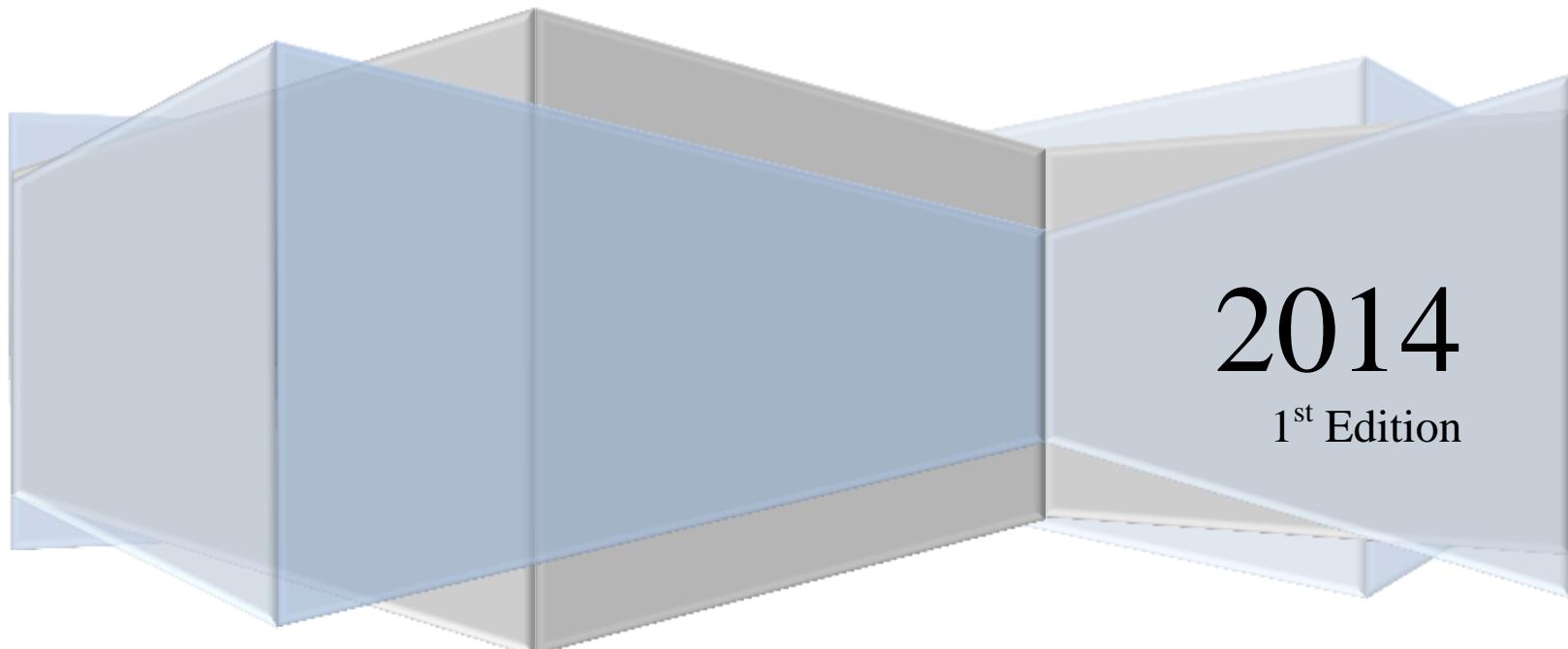


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Official Liturgy Of The Temple of the Jedi Order

TOTJO Prayers

To respond to the call of a Jedi (oneself or others)

Feel the force within you, connect to its flow and shower yourself or those you bless with it.

This world is a dangerous place,
full of danger to the body, mind and soul
many seek greed, selfishness, criminality and power
they take them from others,
There are those who will fight these powerful forces
They are known as Jedi
armed with a strength of character, an unyielding will,
and most of all The Force,
They use the force to help those less fortunate,
To you do rise to this call,
May the Force Be with you always,
Strengthening your will, your faith and your devotion to good,
Accept this blessing and go forth knowing the Force goes with you.

The Serenity Prayer (Jedi Edition)

Force grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change
Courage to change the things I can
and wisdom to know the difference

Living one day at a time
Enjoying one moment at a time
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace.
Taking, as the force did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it

Trusting that the force will make all things right
if I surrender to its Will
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy in the force
forever in the next.

Thanksgiving

O mighty Force

I thank you for the wonders of this universe
the joy of knowing that I am one with all life
that I am here now through you
and can observe and influence those around me
just as you influence me

Help me to greater appreciate the life I have
and the things others have to offer me
and the things I have to offer to others
O Force, help this Jedi to be what I should be
to do what I should do

May the Force be with me
and with us all

Personal prayer to the Force

My friend, my partner, the force,
I pray for strength, for there are days when I must bear the weight of the world,
I pray for wisdom, to guide my actions
I ask you to be within me always, for without the connections you bring I could not serve,
I serve life, because from life springs joy,
Where there is darkness, I will bring light,
Where there is indignity, I will bring honor,
Where there is death, I will bring preservation of life,
I seek these things in life around me,
I therefore ask them for myself as well,
So that I may be an example of duty, honor, valor, friendship to all,
allow me this confidence, I pray, so I may be better than I am today.

Luminous beings are we

Luminous Beings are we
We Answer our call
The call of the Force
We answer our call
Without hesitation
We answer our call
While others decry us
As Freaks, weirdos or Witches
Yet we persist
For we have heard our call
& we have answered it
The call of the Force
We suffer the temptations of this Crude Matter
We suffer through bouts of Anger
We suffer through bouts of Depression
At times we feel alone
But we are never truly alone
For the Force is always with us
& it is now I say
Luminous Beings are We

May the Force be with you

(Jedi Arion Bane 28 FEB 2005
From the Jedi Sanctuary)

General prayers

Each passing day brings with us new experiences, new responsibilities and new chances for happiness. With good will in your hearts and the wisdom of Masters in your souls may you go forth into each day upon the strength of those you care about and those who care about you.

May you know Justice and Diplomacy, Strength and Honour and Wisdom and Compassion.

May you spend this day and everyday in pursuit of that which brings you self enlightenment and joy.

May you bring this knowledge and experience to those you know and love.

May you be guided into hearing the voice of the Force as it calls to you.

May you hold an open heart to hear its words and gain the courage to follow its advice.

We offer thanks for the bonds that hold us together; that allow us to rest in the support of our Jedi brothers and Jedi sisters; that connect us to, and in, the Force. May our hearts be forever open to the wonder of all that is, to the joy of shared experience, and to the gentle contentment of time spent alone.

May the Force foster a spirit of community within us all, that we may join together in times of need and in times of celebration, to open our hearts and share our dreams, to inspire each other, to comfort each one of us and to walk together in peace.

May the Force foster a spirit of community within us all, that we may join together in times of need and in times of celebration, to open our hearts and share our dreams, to inspire each other, to comfort each one of us and to walk together in peace. May the Force be with you all!

May the Force, that flows through us and is a vital part of our being, grant us the ability to learn from our journey through life, to see each moment as a valuable experience, and to honour each step that we take along our path. Guide our feet and strengthen our hearts, that we may achieve the results that we seek and accept the lessons that we need.

May the light of the Force, animate within each of us, guide us along our journeys. May our actions be bold yet considered, may our thoughts be clear yet reasoned, and may our hearts be compassionate yet strong. We honour the Force in its totality just as we honour the Force within and in doing so, we honour us all. Be at peace my fellow Jedi.

We offer our thanks for the insight that springs from the Force as we seek to apply it to our lives. As beings of light we connect with our brothers and sisters in the Universal Moment and as beings of flesh and bone our footsteps walk this Earth and echo in time. Grant us the focus, knowledge and wisdom to live each moment as best we can as mortal creatures, as eternal souls, as Jedi.

The Force is at once both everything and nothing, the vital spark within us all, Hear our prayers and heed our words as we open our hearts to your guidance and light. May we focus on our path, receive knowledge of our direction and gain the wisdom of the lessons along the way.

In compassion and honesty, with the bonds of connected community, this we ask with all our being.

General intercessions

In the power of the Force,
let us trust in that Force.

Hear our prayers, Architect of Life.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Govern and direct your Church; fill it with love and truth,
and grant it that unity which is your will.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Give us boldness to witness the Doctrine in all the world.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Enlighten all your ministers and indeed all Jedi with knowledge
and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives
they may proclaim your works.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Enable your people with the necessary sensitivity to Your energy, fluctuations and disturbances,
and to witness the fruit of that openness.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Bring into the way of truth all who have lost their way.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Strengthen those who give comfort and help to the weak hearted.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Enlighten our governments with wisdom and understanding.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Stand by those who administer the law, that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Give us the will to use the fruits of the earth to get a better understanding of Yourself, and for the good of all creation.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Keep in safety those who travel, and all who are in danger.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Heal the sick in body and mind, and provide for the homeless, the hungry, and the destitute.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Show solidarity with prisoners and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Enable us to forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the peace with the Force, and grant us with them a share in the netherworld.

(REPLY: The Force is with us.)

We ask this for our sakes who strive for the peace of the Force.

General intercessions

Let us turn to the Force.
Creator and preserver of all,
we intercede for people in every kind of need;
make your ways known on earth,
your saving health among all nations

(REPLY: May the Force be with us)

We intercede for the good fortune of the Church;
guide and govern us by your Spirit,
that all who profess and call themselves Jedi
may be led into the way of truth,
and hold steadfast in the unity of spirit,
in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life!

(REPLY: May the Force be with us)

We commend to your will
all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed,
in mind, body or estate;
comfort and relieve them in their need,
give them patience in their sufferings,
and bring good out of all their afflictions!

(REPLY: May the Force be with us)

We remember those who have gone before us
in Your peace, and we give you praise for all the faithful...

(REPLY: May the Force be with us)

For vocation

Loving universal Force,
it is You who call us by name
and ask us to follow You.
Help us to grow in the Love
and Service of our Temple
as we experience it today.

Give us the necessary energy and courage
to build a future

Grant us faithful leaders
who embrace Your Mission
of love and justice.

Bless Temple of the Jedi Order
by calling dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve Your people as Sisters,
Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better
and open our hearts
to hear Your call.

May the Force be with us always.

For vocation

For as long as space endures
And for as long as living beings remain
Until then may I too abide
To dispel the misery of the world.

TOTJO Blessings

Simple Blessing

We call to the Force,
almighty Sanctifier,
Power of love,
who envelopes all life with positive energy,
come and sanctify us.
Replace the tensions within us with righteous peace.
Replace the fears within us with quiet confidence.
Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of respect.
Replace the coldness within us with a loving warmth.
Replace the night within us with Your consoling light.
Fill our emptiness.
Dull the edge of our pride.
Sharpen the edge of our humility.
Let us see ourselves as You see us,
Let us see others as You see them.
Enlighten our minds,
strengthen our wills,
purify our consciences,
rectify our judgment,
set our hearts on fire,
and preserve us from the misfortunes of resisting Your inspirations.
Teach us to see Your design in all of creation.

May the Force be with us always.

For All People

To the Force that lives within us all and which binds us to eternity
Help us to see the beauty
that we are, without and within.

Help us to love ourselves, unconditionally, without judgment.
Your radiance manifests through us and is
present within and around us at all times.
Our bodies are Your conduit and a vehicle for Your Work.
It is therefore deserving of love, respect and honor.

This day and always, help us to honor our bodies,
to love them unconditionally, and to be grateful for their service.

May The Force Be With Us

For Freedom

May everyone be happy,
May everyone be free from misery,
May no one ever be separated from their purpose in life,
May everyone have presence of mind, free from hatred and attachment.

For Hope

O mighty Force,
I am lost as to where to go.
I cannot see the way ahead.
I cannot know for certain where it will lead.
Who am I?
Just because I think I trust in Your will,
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that my desire to be mindful of You,
does in fact envelope all life with Your positive energy.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me on the right way,
though I may not know anything about it.
Therefore, I will trust you always,
although I may seem to be lost
and walk in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for You are always with me,
and You will never leave me to face darkness alone.

For The Poor and Marginalized

Eternal and ever-present Force,
We bring to you the needs of the poor and the marginalized.

We know that these are one with you, whose essence breathes justice, whose nature is ever ready to feed the hungry.
We ask simply, that you be one with us at heart.

Fill us with your compassion, lend us your eyes to see, boldness and selflessness and wisdom, so that we too might cry out for justice and feed the hungry, so that your light might shine throughout the earth.

Mighty and compassionate Force,
we especially bring to you the children among us who are poor and marginalized, finding themselves in circumstances they did not choose and helpless to change. We lift up AIDS orphans, children of war, children suffering abuse and neglect, children smitten with malnutrition and disease, lacking education, housing or the most basic of life's necessities. Might they somehow come to know your love, who knows each hair on their head and collects their tears.

Until that day, let us be tireless in doing what is good and what is right unto the least of these, knowing your love for them.

May the Force be with them.

For Protection

The light of The Force surrounds us;
The love of The Force enfolds us;
The power of The Force protects us;
The presence of The Force watches over us.
Wherever we are, The Force is.
And all is well.

For Understanding

Guide my hand and mind as I seek the knowledge
To learn and unlearn that which I know.
Guide me in ways to learn that which I don't know
But seek to understand.
For it is from understanding that we come closer
To the Force and what can be done.

Let this knowledge lift up those and me
As we continue our path.

For Personal Growth

You, Protector of all beings,
Great destroyer of our hosts of demons,
Please, O Living Force, Knower of All,
Come to this place with your company.

For Guidance

Oh mighty Force
That art in every living thing
Its course and movement
Known and the unknown
Seen and the unseen

Here...there...and everywhere in the mystical energy field that surrounds us, penetrates us, and binds the galaxy together
Oh mighty Force, help me to become a better Jedi Knight
And not always to seek adventure and excitement
For the Jedi crave not these things

Instead, help me to learn the ways of the Force, that I may do thy work, to exercise a strong influence over the weak minded,
perform many somersaults and handstands in thy name, ye, and with all else but death become a Jedi Knight, to have the deepest
commitment, and the most studious mind

Teach me not to try, but to do, or do not, to unlearn what I have learned, and to finish what I begin.

Though that I am reckless, help me to complete my training so that I may become a Guardian of Peace, and Justice, and to
forgive those that have become agents of evil...seduced by the Dark Side of the Force, guide my steps with wisdom so that I
might not be tempted to join them, for once we start down the Dark Path, forever will it dominate our destiny, ye, teach me to use
the force for knowledge and defense, never for attack, for verily thou art my ally, and a powerful ally thou art

Abiding in the great mystery it is ours to comprehend
Forever and ever oh Force, may thou be with me, always...

For Dedication

Through the virtues I have collected
By practising the stages of the Jedi doctrine,
May all living beings find the opportunity
To practice in the same way.

However many living beings there may be
Experiencing mental and physical suffering,
May their suffering cease through the power of my practice,
And may they find everlasting happiness and joy.

May everyone experience
The happiness of humans and gods,
And quickly attain enlightenment,
So that suffering is finally extinguished.

For the benefits of all living beings as extensive as space,
May I attain great wisdom,
Great compassion,
Great Power.

May there never arise in this world
The miseries of incurable disease, famine or war,
Or the dangers of earthquakes, fires,
Floods, storms, and so forth.

May all beings meet precious teachers,
Who reveal the way to enlightenment,
And through engaging on this path
May they quickly attain the ultimate peace of full enlightenment.

For The Sick

Almighty and Eternal Force,
You are the everlasting health of those who trust in You.
Hear us for Our sick brother/sister (NAME)
for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy,
that being restored to bodily health,
s/he may give thanks to You.

May the Force be with him/her.

For Healing

Everlasting Force, essence of life.

this being before me, a child of the force, has been harmed,
the sickness may grow,
the body grows weak,
Use me, a servant in a time of need as an avatar of your power,
Send thru me the healing flow of the force,
Restore them to health
Heal the wounds,
strengthen the mind,
Help me care for them as a brother/sister in the Force.

For Consolation

Breath into me creative Force,
that my thoughts may all be focused.
Move in me, creative force,
that my work too, may be focused.
Attract my heart, embracing Force,
that I may love only what is in you.
Strengthen me, embracing Force,
that I may defend all that is in you.
Protect me, universal Force,
that I always may be with you.

May the Force be with me.

For Funerals

Depart, O soul, out of this present world in which in the name of the Force that created you, and rejoin that from which you came. May you rest in peace as you have again become one with the Force.
May the Force strengthen and support us all the day long until the fever of life is over and our work is done. May the Force welcome and grant safe lodging and a holy peace at last.
May the Force grant (remaining family member/s) comfort in the knowledge and sure confidence in it's care. Defend him/her from the danger of the enemy and keep him/her/them in spiritual peace and safety. May the Force be with you, always.

For Soldiers

Force, you flow through all living things,
I ask for strength of body and mind to defend my country with honor and wisdom,
I ask for forgiveness for being away from my family,
for I miss them every day and yearn to be with them,
I ask for the wisdom to know right and wrong even in the midst of battle,
I will endeavor to keep the force in me and with me at all times,
for these I promise to do my best, my duty, to my country and my fellow man.

For Servicemen and Women in War

We humbly will the protection of the Force for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion, the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Be their rock, their shield, and their stronghold and let them draw their strength from you.

May The Force Be With Them!

For Fathers

Most marvelous and unsolved Force,

We thank you for our fathers, those to whom you have entrusted the responsibility to provide loving protection of their families and guidance of their children. We thank you, also, for our Spiritual Fathers, whose spiritual Guidance is so vital to the faith of your people.

May our fathers imitate the courage of all the great historical fathers of the past in providing wise counsel to the children you have given to their care. And may our spiritual fathers be guided by the examples of the Great Masters. Give them valiant faith in the face of confusion and conflict, hope in time of trouble and sorrow, and steadfast love for their families, and for all people throughout the world.

Assist all fathers of families, all spiritual fathers, and all men, that through your understanding they may steadily grow in wisdom and in knowledge and of your Truth. May they generously impart this knowledge to those who rely on them. May their lives be examples to all of heroic faithfulness to your awesome will.

We ask blessing on all those to whom you have entrusted fatherhood. May your guidance constantly inspire them with justice and mercy, wisdom and strength, fidelity and self-giving love. May they receive your wisdom abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal understanding in your presence.

May The Force Be With Them Always!

For Mothers

Most Mysterious and Awesome Force,

We thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb.

You have given to woman the capacity of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her an unlimited capacity for selfless love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all children.

Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in your care and love for her and for her

unborn baby. Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the birth of her child.

To mothers You have given the great privilege and responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Grant that all mothers may worthily foster the faith of their children. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Ways, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them.

Assist all "spiritual mothers", those who, though they may have no children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for the children of others -- of every age and state in life. Grant that they may know the joy of fulfilling this motherly calling of women, whether in teaching, nursing, religious life, or in other work which recognizes and fosters the true dignity of every human.

We beseech You to send blessings to all mothers who sorrow for children that have died, are ill or estranged from their families, or who are in trouble or danger of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on You and your Will, for strength and Understanding.

We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood.

May The Force Be With Them!

TOTJO Ceremonies

Marriage Ceremony

The following ceremony does not represent the practices of every member but may serve as useful inspiration. Ministers are encouraged to devise their own ceremonies with the intuitive guidance of the Force and in accordance with the needs of the situation.

MINISTER:

Friends and relatives, we have come here today at the invitation of _____ and _____ to share in the joy of their wedding. This outward celebration that we shall see and hear is an expression of the inner love and devotion they have in their hearts toward one another. this union is a symbolic representation of our union with the force.

_____ and _____ come today desiring to be united in this sacred relationship of marriage. Who is giving this couple to be joined as one?

FATHER/MOTHER:

I/we do!

MINISTER:

Marriage is a gift in that we give ourselves totally to one another. marriage is a gift given to comfort the sorrows of life and to magnify life's joys.

Marriage is the clasping of hands, the blending of two hearts, the union of two lives into one and your marriage must stand, not by the authority of the state, nor by the seal on your wedding certificate, but by the strength and power of the faith and love you have in one another. this love is central to all Jedi and this union the deepest representation of that love.

Now, will you please turn and face one another and join hands to express your vows of love and devotion each to the other.

MINISTER: (to the groom)

Will you please repeat this vow to _____, saying after me:

I, _____, take you _____ to be my wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, or for poorer, in sickness and in health, I promise to love and cherish you.

MINISTER: (to the bride)

Will you please repeat this vow to _____ saying after me:

I, _____, take you _____ to be my husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, I promise to love and cherish you.

MINISTER:

As Jedi, we understand how love is central to our lives. this love is what allows us to serve others selflessly, and brings us closer to the force. with these vows and this union you now choose to serve one another as well.

Having this kind of love in your hearts for one another, you have chosen to exchange rings (or whatever is chosen) as the sign and seal of the promises you are making to one another today.

(Minister asks for the rings)

MINISTER:

Rings are very large in their significance. they are made of a precious metal and precious stone and that reminds us that love is not cheap nor common; but indeed love is very costly and dear to us.

These rings are also made in a circle and their design tells us that we must keep love continuous throughout our whole lives even as the circle of the ring is continuous.

As you wear these rings, whether you are together or apart for even just a moment, may these rings be a constant reminder of the promises you are making to one another this day.

MINISTER: (to the groom)

_____ will you please take this ring and place it upon the third finger of _____ 's left hand, and holding their hand in yours, please repeat this promise to _____, saying after me:

with this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving husband, with all present and the Living Force of Creation as my witness.

MINISTER: (to the bride)

_____ will you please take this ring and place it upon the third finger of _____ 's left hand, and holding his hand in yours please repeat this promise to _____, saying after me:
with this ring, I seal my promise, to be your faithful and loving wife, with all present and the Living Force of Creation as my witness.

(candle lighting optional.)

(prayer for bride and groom and personal words by the minister.)

(poems - optional or have your own.)

MINISTER:

True love gives nothing of itself
And takes nothing but from itself
Love does not possess, nor would it be possessed
For love is sufficient unto love.
Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself
To awake at dawn with a winged heart and to give
Thanks for another day of loving.
To rest at noon and meditate upon love's ecstasy,
To return home at evening with gratitude
And then to sleep with a prayer for your beloved
In your heart and a song of praise upon your lips.

_____ and _____, you have come here today before us and have expressed your desire to become husband and wife.

You have shown your love and affection by joining hands, and have made promises of faith and devotion, each to the other, and have sealed these promises by the giving and the receiving of the rings.

Therefore, it is my privilege as a Minister of the Force and by the authority given to me by the (state jurisdictional location), I now pronounce that you are husband and wife.

_____ you may kiss your wife.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce to you for the first time Mr. and Mrs.

_____.

Funeral / Memorial Ceremony #1

The following ceremony does not represent the practices of every member but may serve as useful inspiration. Ministers are encouraged to devise their own ceremonies with the intuitive guidance of the Force and in accordance with the needs of the situation.

MINISTER:

We meet in the name of (deceased), who died and has returned to the glory of the Force. Peace be with you.

ALL:

And also with you.

MINISTER:

We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal. Today we come together to remember our brother/sister (deceased) to give thanks for his/her life and to comfort one another in our grief.

Ever-present and eternal Force, we thank you because you gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit. We thank you now for (deceased) and what he/she meant to each of us. As we honour his/her memory, make us more aware that it is only from the Force that life flows.

We thank you for the life and grace you gave them and the peace in which they rest. Meet us in our sadness and fill our hearts with trust and thanksgiving.

MINISTER:

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice:
the desert shall burst into song.

May the Force guide our hearts,
and lead us to fulfilment .

ALL:

To the Force return our Brother/Sister,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

MINISTER:

Strengthen the weary hands:
make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious: Be strong, fear not,
For the Force is with us.

ALL:

To the Force return our Brother/Sister,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away

(Memories may be shared, a tribute or tributes may be made. songs and readings may be used.)

(Message is written and delivered by the Minister. One of these sayings may then be used)

MINISTER:

Eternal and comforting Force,

we give you thanks for your servant (deceased).
We recollect his/her life and cherish his/her memory.
He/she has brought light to our lives; for we have seen
in his/her friendship reflections eternal compassion,
in his/her integrity demonstrations of great goodness,
in his/her faithfulness glimpses of eternal life in the Force.
May each of us, beloved and bereft, follow his/her good example
so that we with him/her may come to know more of the Mystery.

Those who have died in faith have eternal joy in the Force.
For us who remain, be with us in our sadness and turn our spirits to you.
Raise us to new life in the Force, give us victory over death and confidence to look forward on our Paths.

Let us declare our faith in the Force and the Eternal Mystery in the form of the Jedi Creed. Please repeat after me:

(all to repeat, one line at a time)

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace.
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
I am a Jedi.
I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

MINISTER:

Peace be with you now as you remember our fellow traveller on the Path. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
Peace in the Force be with you always.

ALL:

And also with you.

MINISTER:

Neither death nor life can separate us from the Force.
May we have the Patience and Wisdom to trust the Force not for ourselves alone, but also for those whom we love and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death; that, as we travel our Paths we may be lead by its eternal and universal Will.

May the Force make you perfect in every good work that you may follow its will and
May The Force Be With You Always.

ALL:

And also with you.

Funeral / Memorial Service #2

The following ceremony does not represent the practices of every member but may serve as useful inspiration. Ministers are encouraged to devise their own ceremonies with the intuitive guidance of the Force and in accordance with the needs of the situation.

We are gathered here today to share in the grief over the physical death of (deceased). We are also here to celebrate their life and to remember the remarkable Jedi that s/he was. Let us be in this moment together to share the beauty that (deceased) life represented. Let us now remember his/her spirit and rejoice that he has made his journey home.

Sample Reading: Immortality (Author Unknown)

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there. I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am diamond glints of snow;
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;
I am the gentle autumn's rain.
When you awaken in the mornings hush;
I am the swift uplighting rush
Of quiet birds' encircled flight.
I am the soft star that shines at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there,
I did not die.

Candle Lighting Ceremony

The candle I have here represents the spirit of (deceased), which represents the light of his soul, the light of the world.

You have all a candle. Each of these candles represents the light within you. In a moment, I am going to ask you to light your candle and place it on the table next to you. This symbolizes that even though we are physically separate, our spirits are one. Also, while the candles are being lit, please join me to remember the love and beauty of (deceased)'s life.

Eternal and compassionate Force, be with us today and share with us your grace and unconditional love. Be with us during our time of loss and guide us in our time of need. We seek your comfort through the love we share for one another, through the love we share for (deceased). Help us to remember that death is a gateway into the fullness of Life Everlasting and that our connections, made in the name of Love, transcend physical form and persist eternally. We ask that our grief be lessened through the sharing of words, and memories, and by the visitation of Your Loving Grace. May the Force be with us.

Sample Reading: from The Prophet (Kahlil Gibran)

You would know the secret of death. But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life? The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light. If you would behold

the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one. In the depths of our hopes and desire, lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity. Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the King whose hand is to be laid upon him in honor. Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling that he shall wear the mark of the King? Yet, he is not more mindful of his trembling? For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun. And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breathe from its restless tides that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered? Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountaintop, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

Eulogy

(A summary of the life of the deceased)

Please add your condolences, or thoughts...

(This is the place where friends say a few words about the passed loved one.)

Sample Prayer.

Please join me now in a prayer. The response is: "We remember him/her"

In the rising of the sun and when it sets,
(We remember him/her)

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter
(We remember him/her)

In the opening of buds and the rebirth of spring,
(We remember him/her)

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
(We remember him/her)

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn
(We remember him/her)

So long as we live, he too shall live, for he is a part of us,
(We remember him/her)

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
(We remember him/her)

When we are weary and in need of strength
(We remember him/her)

When we are lost and sick at heart
(We remember him/her)

When we have joys we yearn to share
(We remember him/her)

So long as we live, he too shall live, for he is a part of us,

(We remember him/her)

Closing Prayer

Let us Pray:

Eternal and compassionate Force, we send forth the soul of your beloved (deceased) into your gentle arms. Hold his precious spirit in your beautiful universal embrace, where he is safe and whole.

(The remainder of the Closing Prayer should be written by the Minister as a reflection of the life of the deceased)

Sample Reading: The Dash (Linda Ellis)

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end
He noted that first came the date of her birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years
For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not how much we own;
The cars, the house, the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.
So think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.
So, when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

Final Blessing

May the Force bless you and keep you always.

May its light shine upon your face and be gracious unto you.
May its presence be with you now and for all the days of your lives,
And may It grant you peace and comfort, now and forever.

Let Us All Say loud ...
May the force be with You always (NAME)!

(ALL)
May the force be with You always (NAME)!

Go in peace my friends

Ceremony to Consecrate Land

(A processional sign or symbol around which Jedi gather may be used to focus the gathering point.)

MINISTER:

Dear Friends, we have gathered here in gratitude for the gift of the universe, and to accept this special gift of the stewardship of the land on which we now stand.
It is we who are a part of that universe and have received.
All that we are and all that we have are at one with the Force.
We are woven into the great seamless fabric of the universal,
our health and wholeness depend on its health and wholeness.
Therefore, we adopt this land as a special trust from the Force.

Let us pray:

Almighty and never ending Force, be present with us
as we accept from you this gift of stewardship.
Grant to this land the grace of your presence,
so that all who come here will know the peace and comfort of your love.
Bless all people and all creatures who will share and use this property.
May we be good neighbours and worthy stewards of the life that graces this portion of your earth.

(Text reading relevant to stewardship, earth...)

(Hymn/poem relevant to stewardship, earth...)

MINISTER:

We ask the Force to be with this land and to guide and bless us in preparing it for holy worship, prayer, service and fellowship.
We recognize that it is a part of the universal whole, good and pleasing and valuable in its own right.
The responsibility and the privilege rest upon us to be worthy tenants and caretakers.
We bring offerings as tokens of our pledge to care for the health and wholeness of this land and this community.

(Upon the invitation of the minister, all who wish may step forward to scatter a small offering of soil, compost, ash, or other earth material on the ground as they speak the responses below)

MINISTER:

That a church may meet here where children will learn to love the Force and grow in Wonder and grace and goodness, and in unity with the Force and all people,

May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.
That a church may meet here where the weary and heavy-laden will find peace,
May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.
That a church may meet here where multitudes will be refreshed in spirit, relieved from pain and anxiety,
released from bondage, and redeemed from guilt,
May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.
That a church may meet here from which, by your power, your people are sent forth into this community
and all the world as champions of justice and peace in all the earth,
May the Force be with this land today and make it holy.
That a church may meet here and use and care for this land with such gratitude, diligence, and respect
that it will be in perfect harmony with the entire community of creation,
May the Force be with this land today and make it holy
as we seek to fulfill the holy purposes
for which we dedicate ourselves and this land,
in Your name.
May the Force be with us.

(if desired, ceremony may be concluded with a reading of the Jedi Creed and with all responding)

Ceremony to Consecrate a Temple

Before the Consecration of the temple/church takes place, the Bishop has to make certain that it is properly furnished and equipped for the celebration of the rites and ceremonies of the Church according to the use of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

This Service should only be used when the land and buildings are free from debt and there is reason to believe that the building will be used for worship in perpetuity. Otherwise it should not be consecrated, but dedicated with the use of some of the prayers in this form, as the Bishop shall direct.

The Bishop, attended by assistants, should be received at the door of the Church by those gathered.

A Petition, in the form following or to the like effect, signed by responsible ministers, wardens, and others, should be read, and presented to the Bishop.

“To the Right Reverend Bishop of
We, the responsible, wardens, and inhabitants of, having acquired the land [describe it],
more particularly described in a deed between and [or by will or otherwise
as the case may be], duly registered according to law [where registration is possible] on the day of
..... in the year of our Lord, on which there is a Temple/Church, which we
certify to be free from any legal incumbrance, do humbly pray you to separate the same from all profane
and common uses, and to consecrate the said Temple/Church, and set it apart for ever for worship with
the Force, according to the rites and discipline of the Temple of the Jedi Order.”

The Bishop, accepting the Petition, should answer and consent, saying:

BISHOP:

Brothers and Sisters, if this is your wish, and the wish of the all members of the Temple of the Jedi Order,
we will now proceed to the act of Consecration.

May the positive energy of the Force be with us, in all that we do; that in all our works, begun, continued,

and ended in You, we may honour Your Name, and that finally our souls and spirits may continue in the netherworld of the Living Force.

(The Bishop and his attendants may walk round the outside of the building, or the Temple/Church-yard. If a Burial-ground is to be consecrated, it may be done at this time)

(Then the Bishop, taking a ceremonial instrument, knocks five times at the door, in honour of the 5 Rites of old. If conditions require, the Petition may be read within the Church, and the Bishop may strike the floor near the door with his ceremonial instrument.)

BISHOP:

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may go into them and let us be aware of the Force.

(Then the Churchwardens shall open wide the doors. Then the Bishop, standing within the entrance, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Peace be to this House of the Force, our spiritual Guide.

(The Bishop with his attendants shall then proceed towards the Chancel while a text is read or sung)

(When the Bishop is seated, he shall have the necessary legal documents presented to him, by the person duly appointed, which he shall place visible to all; and then, standing and turning to the Congregation, he shall say to them as follows:)

BISHOP:

Dearly beloved in the Force, forasmuch as dedicated and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Jedi Doctrine, moved by the secret inspiration of the omnipresent Force, or by their own reason and sense of order and decency, have erected this houses for public service, and have separated it from all profane and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for the Force's glorious majesty, and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in his service: Let us not doubt that this lies in the Force's purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner to religious worship; and let us faithfully and devoutly ask the Force's blessing on this our undertaking, keeping silence for a moment.

Let us gather our thoughts.

O Eternal Force, mighty in power, of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands; be present with us, who are now gathered together to consecrate this place, with all humility and readiness of heart, to the honour of your great Name; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common uses; and dedicating it entirely to your service, for reading therein your most holy Word, for celebrating Your will, for offering to Your glorious majesty the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing Your people in Your Name, and for all other holy ordinances: Accept this service at our hands, and bless it with such success as may most serve Your will, and the liberation of Your people.

(Then the Bishop may with his ceremonial instrument trace the letters of the Jedi blessing: MTFBWY)

BISHOP:

I claim this place for the one Force, who is the First and the Last, and inherent in all. May the Force be with us all.

(Then the people shall stand, and the Bishop with his attendants shall go to the Font, where he shall say:)

BISHOP:

One Force, one Faith, one Oath;

ALL:

One Force, one Faith, one Oath.

BISHOP:

Grant, O Force, that this Temple/Church, which we now consecrate for your service, may be a Temple/Church for all who come; that, being a Temple/Church dedicated to your service they may rise unto righteousness, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful; we ask this through the life giving power of the Force. May the Force be with us.

(As they go to the centre and return to the Chancel, a text or song, may be recited in two parts. And the Bishop, standing at the Chancel steps, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Our help is in the Name of the Force which is the very fabric of the Universe and all that is.

Grant, O Force, that all who in this place shall renew the promises and vows, may be confirmed and strengthened with Your power, and continuing Yours for ever, may daily increase more and more, until they come to the netherworld.

Whatever the Force binds together, let no man separate.

Grant, O Force, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of Matrimony may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant between them, and may remain in perfect love together until their lives' end; May the Force be with us.

(The Bishop, turning towards the Prayer Desk, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Hear our prayer, O Force, and consider our desire.

Grant O Force, that whosoever shall recognise their faults, and offer up their prayers and praises unto thy Divine Majesty in this place, may be acceptable in Your sight, and finally may be graciously received into Your presence, to praise and glorify You for evermore; May the Force be with us.

(The Bishop, turning towards the Lectern or Pulpit, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Your Word is a lantern unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Grant, O Force, that through Your Movements, which shall be proclaimed in this place, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; May the Force be with us.

(Then the Bishop, standing with his attendants in the midst of the Chancel, shall say:)

BISHOP:

To do good and to distribute should not be forgotten for such sacrifices are good and just.

Grant, O Force, to Your people who sacrifice themselves for this place, that they may give cheerfully for the work of the Temple/Church, and the extension of Your Truth; May the Force be with us.

(Then the Bishop, standing before the holy Table, shall say:)

BISHOP:

The memorial of Your abundant kindness shall be showed and all shall sing of Your righteousness.

Grant, O Force, that this Table may be consecrated for celebration and remembrance of the sanctity of Life; and that our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which is here offered unto Your Divine Majesty may be acceptable, through the merits and mediation of Your faithful, the Jedi. May the Force be with us.

(The Bishop, sitting in his Chair, shall then sign, and cause to be read publicly, the Sentence of Consecration given under his hand and seal according to the form following, or to the like effect, which Sentence shall be recorded in the Registry of the Temple/Diocese.)

SENTENCE OF CONSECRATION:

In the Name of the Force.

WHEREAS a Temple/Church has been erected at within our Diocese and jurisdiction, upon a piece of land [description of the land and title to be here inserted]; and whereas the said building is now completed and furnished with all things requisite for the due performance of public worship, and is free from all legal liability for debt, and is now ready for Consecration; and whereas a Petition has been presented to us by the responsible, the Wardens, and others [to be here described as the case may be], praying that we would be pleased to consecrate the said building:

Now therefore, we, by Divine permission Bishop of do by virtue of the authority ordinary and episcopal to us committed, consecrate the said building, and do set it apart from all profane and common uses, and do dedicate the same to the Force for the ministration, and for public worship, according to the rites and ceremonies of the Temple of the Jedi Order, by the name of
.....

And we do pronounce, decree, and declare that the said Temple/Church shall remain so consecrated, set apart, and dedicated for ever; In the Name of the Force and the Temple of the Jedi Order.

WITNESS our hand and seal, this day of in the Year of the Lord
..... and of our Consecration the

(The Bishop standing, and turning to the people, shall say:)

BISHOP:

Grant that this whole place which is here dedicated to You by our office and ministry may also be consecrated by the sanctifying power of the Force, who lives and governs all things, world without end.

Now, by virtue of the sacred office committed to us in the Temple/Church, I do declare to be consecrated and set apart from all profane and common uses this Temple under the Name and title of THE TEMPLE OF [here he shall state the dedication],

Ceremony for the Knighting of an Apprentice

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

should be a Councillor of TOTJO. If this is not possible, then a representative duly elected as such by the Council for this ceremony.

CANDIDATE –

the member receiving the promotion to Knighthood.

TRAINING MASTER –

the candidate's training master (apprenticeship).

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Welcome one and all to this, the occasion of bestowing Knighthood upon a worthy member of our Order. I am (USER NAME), (RANK) of Jediism and Councillor of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

[If the Master of Ceremonies is not a Councillor then they should announce themselves with:
I am (USER NAME), (RANK) of Jediism and elected to represent the Council of the Temple of the Jedi Order at this ceremony]

Let us begin the ceremony in reflection:

The Force, as we are, is at once both everything and nothing, the vital spark within us all. Heed our words as we open our hearts to its guidance and light. May we focus on our path, receive knowledge of our direction and gain the wisdom of the lessons along the way. In compassion and honesty, with the bonds of connected community, this we ask with all our being. May the Force be with you all.

EVERYONE:

And also with you.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will the Candidate please step forward and announce themselves.

CANDIDATE: I am (FULL NAME),

Jedi Apprentice and known as (USER NAME).

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Are you prepared to accept the accolade of Knighthood this day?

CANDIDATE:

Yes, I am.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will the candidate's Training Master please step forward and announce themselves.

[If the Training Master is not available, their representative will announce themselves with the line: I am (USER NAME), (RANK) of Jediism and speaking on behalf of (TRAINING MASTER), (RANK) of Jediism and Training Master to (CANDIDATE)]

TRAINING MASTER:

I am (TRAINING MASTER), (RANK) of Jediism and Training Master to (CANDIDATE).

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Has the candidate completed all of the required training as prescribed by the Temple of the Jedi Order?

TRAINING MASTER:

Yes, s/he has.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Is the Candidate duly registered according to the regulations of the Temple of the Jedi Order?

TRAINING MASTER:

Yes, s/he is.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Is the candidate under any judicial ban that would prevent the taking of this office at this time?

TRAINING MASTER:

No, s/he is not.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Is the candidate a member in good standing?

TRAINING MASTER:

Yes, s/he is.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

And are you satisfied that the candidate is ready to accept the mantle of Knighthood?

TRAINING MASTER:

Yes, I am.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Thank you. As a representative of the Council of the Temple of the Jedi Order, I give my consent to this Knighting.

[If other Councillors are present]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

I would ask any Councillors here present to state their agreement if this be the case.

[Response is: "I, (USER NAME), give my consent to this Knighting"]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

A knight is sworn to valor.
Their heart knows only virtue.
Their blade defends the helpless.
Their word speaks only truth.
Their Shield shelters the forsaken.
Their courage gives hope to the despairing.
Their justice undoes the wicked.
Their image brings peace.
Their code breaks the darkness,
Their legend brings light

The responsibilities of Knighthood are many. As a representative of this Order, you must uphold the teachings, practices and tenets of TOTJO as well as embodying the virtues, lessons and spirit of Jediism. You may also wish to contribute to the future of the Order by dedicating time and energy to the training of future Knights and to your own development through self study and the pursuit of knowledge. May wisdom be your guide, may courage strengthen your soul, may compassion steer your heart and may the Force be with you always.

(CANDIDATE), do you accept all that is required of you as a Knight of Jediism of the Temple of the Jedi Order?

CANDIDATE:

I do

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

The time has come to administer the Jedi Creed. (CANDIDATE), please repeat after me [candidate to repeat the following lines, one at a time]

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;

Where there is hatred I shall bring love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

In honour of the commitment and dedication to the Temple of the Jedi Order that is required of a Knight, you are also asked to take the Solemn Oath, a record of which will be kept in the archives.

(CANDIDATE), will you make this vow in the form of the appropriate forum post?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Your development and progress as an apprentice has been guided and supported by your Training Master and so it is only right that they should have the final word in support of your application. Will (TRAINING MASTER) please reveal what is in their heart...

[TRAINING MASTER, or their representative, to read a statement in support of the Candidate. This may also include any personal words of congratulation.]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

We are all Jedi. The Force speaks through us and guides our hands to action. Today we are here to acknowledge what the Force has proclaimed. By the right of the Council, by the will of the Force, I dub thee (CANDIDATE), Jedi Knight of the Temple of the Jedi Order. May the Force be with you always!

Should any member wish to say anything, please feel free to do so now.

[time for people to add their own contributions, if any]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

I declare this ceremony to be complete. May the Force be with us all.

Ceremony for the Granting of a Ministers License

MASTER OF CEREMONIES –

should be a Bishop of TOTJO or if not possible, then an Ordained Minister.

CANDIDATE –

the member receiving the Minister's License.

PRESENTING MINISTER –

another Minister acting as witness to the ceremony. Should ideally be an Ordained Minister.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Welcome one and all to this, the occasion of the granting of a a Minister's License. Let us begin the ceremony in reflection:

We offer our thanks for the insight that springs from the Force as we seek to apply it to our lives.
As beings of light we connect with our brothers and sisters in the Universal Moment
and as beings of flesh and bone our footsteps walk this Earth and echo in time.
Grant us the focus, knowledge and wisdom to live each moment as best we can
as mortal creatures,
as eternal souls,
as Jedi.

May the Force be with you all

EVERYONE:

And also with you

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

The Force guides everyone to serve in their own particular way and some of these people are called to minister its truths and mysteries to others. As servants of the people, Ministers are to shepherd them on their respective paths and to guide them to self discovery and understanding. With their fellow Ministers, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of doctrine and guidance, that we all may grow into the fullness of the Force and better understand ourselves.

Will the Candidate please step forward and announce themselves.

CANDIDATE:

I am (FULL NAME), (RANK) of Jediism and known as (USER NAME).

M: Are you prepared to accept the responsibilities of the role of Minister of Jediism on this day?

CANDIDATE:

Yes, I am.

M: Will the Presenting Minister please step forward and announce themselves.

PRESENTING MINISTER:

I am (USER NAME), (RANK) of Jediism and (CLERICAL TITLE) of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Has the Candidate completed all of the required Clerical training as prescribed by the Temple of the Jedi Order?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, s/he has.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Does the Candidate fulfil the requirements according to their rank at the Temple of the Jedi Order, including all necessary Oaths or Vows?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, s/he does.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Has the Candidate fulfilled all of the requirements of the issuance of a Minister's License as prescribed by the Temple of the Jedi Order?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, s/he has.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Is the Candidate under any judicial ban that would prevent the granting of a Minister's License at this time?

PRESENTING MINISTER: No, s/he is not.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

And does the issuance of this Minister's License have the approval of the Council of the Temple of the Jedi Order?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, it does.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Thank you.

Ministers are called to be servants among the people. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Church. They are to teach and to admonish, to nourish and to support, and to guide the people through the confusions of life, that they may grow in knowledge and wisdom of the Force.

As Jedi they are to protect the peace and defend the weak. As Ministers they are to uplift the spirit through the guidance of the Doctrine and the wisdom of the Force. With the qualities of compassion, understanding, tolerance and acceptance, they are to open their arms to embrace the community and to provide counsel in times of need.

They are to minister to the sick and prepare those who are transitioning from this world and back to the Force, supporting all those who are affected by such changes. Standing together with their brothers and sisters, they are to provide light through the darkness, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

(CANDIDATE),

Will you on this day devote yourself to the care and the needs of the people as a Minister of Jediism?

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you faithfully minister the Doctrine of this church, that our community may flourish in their faith?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you, reconciled to your eternal existence in the Force, strive to be an instrument of peace in the Temple and in the world?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you stand shoulder to shoulder with your fellow Ministers in upholding the spirits of the people and guiding them to their highest potential?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

And will you strive to further your own self, to be the best that you can be and to allow your light to shine forth as inspiration to others that may follow?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Thank you. Know that you will always be supported by your fellow Ministers, by the Temple itself and by your own faith in the guidance of the Force. With this in mind, it is with great pleasure that I issue you with a License as a Minister of Jediism and state that you shall henceforth be known as Rev. (CANDIDATE'S REAL NAME). May the Force be with you!

Should any member wish to say anything, please feel free to do so now.

[time for people to add their own contributions, if any]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

I now ask the newly proclaimed Minister to lead us all in the reading of the Creed.

CANDIDATE:

Would those gathered here please repeat after me [everyone to repeat the following lines, one at a time]

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;

Where there is hatred I shall bring love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

I declare this ceremony to be complete. May the Force be with us all.

Ceremony for the Ordination of a Minister

MASTER OF CEREMONIES – must be a Bishop of TOTJO.

CANDIDATE –

the member receiving the Minister's License.

PRESENTING MINISTER –

another Minister acting as witness to the ceremony. Should ideally be an Ordained Minister.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Welcome one and all to this, the occasion of the Ordination of one of our members. Let us begin the ceremony in reflection:

We offer our thanks for the insight that springs from the Force as we seek to apply it to our lives.
As beings of light we connect with our brothers and sisters in the Universal Moment
and as beings of flesh and bone our footsteps walk this Earth and echo in time.
Grant us the focus, knowledge and wisdom to live each moment as best we can
as mortal creatures,
as eternal souls,
as Jedi.

May the Force be with you all

EVERYONE:

And also with you

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

The Force guides everyone to serve in their own particular way and some of these people are called to minister its truths and mysteries to others. As servants of the people, Ministers are to shepherd them on their respective paths and to guide them to self discovery and understanding. With their fellow Ministers, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of doctrine and guidance, that we all may grow into the fullness of the Force and better understand ourselves.

Will the Candidate please step forward and announce themselves.

CANDIDATE:

I am (FULL NAME), (RANK) of Jediism and known as (USER NAME).

M: Are you prepared to accept the responsibilities of the role of Ordained Minister of Jediism on this day?

CANDIDATE:

Yes, I am.

M: Will the Presenting Minister please step forward and announce themselves.

PRESENTING MINISTER:

I am (USER NAME), (RANK) of Jediism and (CLERICAL TITLE) of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Has the Candidate completed all of the required Clerical training as prescribed by the Temple of the Jedi Order?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, s/he has.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Does the Candidate fulfil the requirements according to their rank at the Temple of the Jedi Order, including all necessary Oaths or Vows?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, s/he does.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Has the Candidate fulfilled all of the requirements for Ordination as prescribed by the Temple of the Jedi Order?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, s/he has.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Is the Candidate under any judicial ban that would prevent this Ordination at this time?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

No, s/he is not.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

And does this Ordination have the approval of the Council of the Temple of the Jedi Order?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, it does.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Thank you.

Ministers are called to be servants among the people. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Church. They are to teach and to admonish, to nourish and to support, and to guide the people through the confusions of life, that they may grow in knowledge and wisdom of the Force.

As Jedi they are to protect the peace and defend the weak. As Ministers they are to uplift the spirit through the guidance of the Doctrine and the wisdom of the Force. With the qualities of compassion, understanding, tolerance and acceptance, they are to open their arms to embrace the community and to provide counsel in times of need.

They are to minister to the sick and prepare those who are transitioning from this world and back to the Force, supporting all those who are affected by such changes. Standing together with their brothers and sisters, they are to provide light through the darkness, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

In addition to this, Ordination is a commitment for life. It can only be rescinded in the most severe of circumstances as this is a contract between the Minister and the Force, a dedication to serving the people through the Doctrine and the guidance of the Force. This promise is written on the soul and strengthens every fiber of the spirit; as such it is not to be taken lightly and without due consideration.

(CANDIDATE),

Will you on this day devote yourself to the care and the needs of the people as an Ordained Minister of Jediism?

CANDIDATE:

I will.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you faithfully minister the Doctrine of this church, that our community may flourish in their faith?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you, reconciled to your eternal existence in the Force, strive to be an instrument of peace in the Temple and in the world?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you stand shoulder to shoulder with your fellow Ministers in upholding the spirits of the people and guiding them to their highest potential?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

And will you strive to further your own self, to be the best that you can be and to allow your light to shine forth as inspiration to others that may follow?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Thank you. Know that you will always be supported by your fellow Ministers, by the Temple itself and by your own faith in the guidance of the Force. With this in mind, it is with great pleasure that I ordain you as a Minister and (CLERICAL RANK) of Jediism and state that you shall henceforth be known as Rev. (CANDIDATE'S REAL NAME) OCP. May the Force be with you!

Should any member wish to say anything, please feel free to do so now.

[time for people to add their own contributions, if any]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

I now ask the newly proclaimed Minister to lead us all in the reading of the Creed.

CANDIDATE:

Would those gathered here please repeat after me [everyone to repeat the following lines, one at a time]

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;

Where there is hatred I shall bring love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: I declare this ceremony to be complete. May the Force be with us all.

Ceremony for the Ordination of a Bishop

MASTER OF CEREMONIES –
must be a Bishop of TOTJO.

CANDIDATE –
the member receiving the Minister's License.

PRESENTING MINISTER –
another Minister acting as witness to the ceremony. Should ideally be an Ordained Minister.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Welcome one and all to this, the occasion of the Ordination of a Bishop of the Order. Let us begin the ceremony in reflection:

We offer our thanks for the lessons that we are given, the courage to learn from moments of strife and the humility to accept the grace in moments of better fortune. With the guidance of the Force, every step we take leads us to the right place at the right time and we ask that our hearts and minds be forever open to the signs and feelings that shepherd us safely through the confusion. We give thanks to those who have stepped up to guide others, that they may carry the weight of each burden with openness and honour, and may they always be able to stretch out their hands to those who are in need, that we may all walk together in strength as sisters and brothers in the Force.

May the Force be with you all

EVERYONE:

And also with you

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

The Force guides everyone to serve in their own particular way and some of these people are called to minister its truths and mysteries to others. As servants of the people, Ministers are to shepherd them on their respective paths and to guide them to self discovery and understanding. With their fellow Ministers, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of doctrine and guidance, that we all may grow into the fullness of the Force and better understand ourselves.

The title of Bishop is bestowed upon those who have committed themselves fully to the guidance of the Force and who have accepted the responsibility of shepherding the Ministers and congregation through their duties, trials and development. As the highest Clerical order, they hold the spiritual energies of TOTJO on behalf of all those that walk these halls and may bestow ordination upon those Ministers who are deemed to be ready. Even though these tasks are great, the Bishops remain simply as Jedi and as the servants of the servants of the people.

Will the Candidate please step forward and announce themselves.

CANDIDATE:

I am (FULL NAME), (RANK) of Jediism and known as (USER NAME).

M: Are you prepared to accept the responsibilities of the role of Bishop of Jediism on this day?

CANDIDATE:

Yes, I am.

M: Will the Presenting Minister please step forward and announce themselves.

PRESENTING MINISTER

I am (USER NAME), (RANK) of Jediism and (CLERICAL TITLE) of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Has the Candidate completed all of the required Clerical training as prescribed by the Temple of the Jedi Order?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, s/he has.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Does the Candidate fulfil the requirements according to their rank at the Temple of the Jedi Order, including all necessary Oaths or Vows?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, s/he does.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Has the Candidate fulfilled all of the requirements for Ordination as prescribed by the Temple of the Jedi Order?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, s/he has.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Is the Candidate under any judicial ban that would prevent this Ordination at this time?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

No, s/he is not.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

And does this Ordination have the approval of the Council of the Temple of the Jedi Order?

PRESENTING MINISTER:

Yes, it does.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Thank you.

Ministers are called to be servants among the people. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Church. They are to teach and to admonish, to nourish and to support, and to guide the people through the confusions of life, that they may grow in knowledge and wisdom of the Force.

As Jedi they are to protect the peace and defend the weak. As Ministers they are to uplift the spirit through the guidance of the Doctrine and the wisdom of the Force. With the qualities of compassion, understanding, tolerance and acceptance, they are to open their arms to embrace the community and to provide counsel in times of need.

They are to minister to the sick and prepare those who are transitioning from this world and back to the Force, supporting all those who are affected by such changes. Standing together with their brothers and sisters, they are to provide light through the darkness, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

In addition to this, Ordination is a commitment for life. It can only be rescinded in the most severe of circumstances as this is a contract between the Minister and the Force, a dedication to serving the people through the Doctrine and the guidance of the Force. This promise is written on the soul and strengthens every fiber of the spirit; as such it is not to be taken lightly and without due consideration.

Bishops are called to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church; to celebrate and to provide for the administration of the Church; to ordain Ministers and to join in ordaining bishops; and to be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire Jedi Community and the World.

With your fellow bishops you will share in the leadership of the Church throughout the world. Your joy will be to follow The Force, not to be served, but to serve, and to give your life to the celebration of Peace.

(CANDIDATE),

Will you on this day devote yourself to the care and the needs of the people as a Bishop of Jediism?

CANDIDATE:

I will.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you faithfully minister the Doctrine of this church, that our community may flourish in their faith?

CANDIDATE:

I will

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you, reconciled to your eternal existence in the Force, strive to be an instrument of peace in the Temple and in the world?

CANDIDATE:

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Will you stand shoulder to shoulder with your fellow Ministers in upholding the spirits of the people and guiding them to their highest potential?

CANDIDATE:

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

And will you strive to further your own self, to be the best that you can be and to allow your light to shine forth as inspiration to others that may follow?

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Thank you. Know that you will always be supported by your fellow Ministers, by the Temple itself and by your own faith in the guidance of the Force. With this in mind, it is with great pleasure that I ordain you as a Bishop of Jediism and state that you shall henceforth be known as Rev. (CANDIDATE'S REAL NAME) OCP. May the Force be with you!

Should any member wish to say anything, please feel free to do so now.

[time for people to add their own contributions, if any]

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

I now ask the newly proclaimed Bishop to lead us all in the reading of the Creed.

CANDIDATE:

Would those gathered here please repeat after me [everyone to repeat the following lines, one at a time]

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Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

I declare this ceremony to be complete. May the Force be with us all.

Member Created Liturgy of The Temple of the Jedi Order

Member Prayers

A Contemplation on “Ignorance, yet knowledge”

*Taken from: Sermon – Perceptions (2nd April)
by Michael James Kitchen, 4/2/2012*

with limited knowledge
at our disposal,
it is easy to pass judgment

so take the time to think,
before you respond

acknowledge that you don’t
always know
the reason behind things,
no matter what the situation
or how much knowledge
you THINK you have

Ignorance; yet knowledge

IN PRAISE OF THE EARTH

Let us bless
The imagination of the Earth.
That knew early the patience
To harness the mind of time,
Waited for the seas to warm,
Ready to welcome the emergence
Of things dreaming of voyaging
Among the stillness of land.

And how light knew to nurse
The growth until the face of the Earth
Brightened beneath a vision of color.

When the ages of ice came
And sealed the Earth inside
An endless coma of cold,
The heart of the Earth held hope,
Storing fragments of memory,
Ready for the return of the sun.

Let us thank the Earth
That offers ground for home
And holds our feet firm
To walk in space open

To infinite galaxies.

Let us salute the silence
And certainty of mountains:

Their sublime stillness,
Their dream filled hearts.

The wonder of a garden
Trusting the first warmth of spring
Until its black infinity of cells
Becomes charged with dream;
Then the silent, slow nature
Of seed's self, coaxing it
To trust the act of death.

The humility of the Earth
That transfigures all
That has fallen
Of outlived growth.

The kindness of the Earth,
Opening to receive
Our worn forms
Into the final stillness.

Let us ask forgiveness of the Earth
For all our sins against her:
For our violence and poisonings
Of her beauty.

Let us remember within us
The ancient clay,
Holding the memory of seasons,
The passion of the wind,

The fluency of the water,
The warmth of fire,
The quiver-touch of the sun
And shadowed sureness of the moon.

That we may awaken,
To live to the full
The dream of the Earth
Who chose us to emerge
And incarnate its hidden night
In mind, spirit, and light.

by John O'Donahue

I am a Jedi:

*Another Alternative to “Serenity Prayer” by, Reinhold Niebuhr
Taken From Sermon 1/19/14: What Is A Basic Teaching by Michael James Kitchen
Recorded by Wescli Wardest in Sermon Comment*

I have the courage to face adversity;
The conviction to stand on principal;
I have wisdom to know when to confront,
When to relent,
And when to stand idle.

I am a Jedi:
I live in the present;
Experience each moment;
Accept what lies as the pathway to balance;

Not as I would have it;
But how it should be.

I am a Jedi:
My faith is in the Force;
My compassion is for all;
My word is my bond;
I am content in its will.

I am a Jedi.

I Will

*inspired by a Sermon of Action For Lack of a Better Title by,
Ren Sydrick*

I will
I will to train
I will to train to have
I will to train to have the clarity

the clarity . . .to act

the clarity . . .not to act

the clarity . . .to choose

Breeding soldiers & servants

Mereeka

A Present Reflection

On The Breeding of
servants and soldiers

a present perception

shadow figures

moving in mind

what “they” are doing

what “they” did

who is cause?

what is cause?

memories seem real, yet

do i choose to be now

but a mere shadow of memories?

is that all that I am?

it cannot be so

who is cause?

in present now

not servant nor soldier

neither bred nor breeder

neither stuck nor limited

is that what i am?

it cannot be so

allowing a few moments

of melting glue

unattached cause less ness

not a victim nor a victor

followed by

a few moments of terror. . . .

effects of the shadows. . . .

rise up in a shriek

if i am not these things

what will become of me?

not a thing

not another thing

Guided Reflection

Taken From Sermon: Memorial Day/Samhein Service and Sermon

by Mark Barwell

May the Force grant us strength to say goodbye to that which we have cherished,
the courage to continue to walk without those we have loved,
and the understanding to know that all is as it should be.

In honour of all that is gone, all that is, and all that shall be.

May the Force be with you all.

We . . . set aside a time . . . to respect

those who have passed into the Force.

For now, we shall focus on remembering and honouring the people
that have touched our lives and who have since left us.

As the Code tells us, “Death, yet the Force”

or as the Orthodox Code proclaims: “there is no Death, there is the Force”.

These lines echo the sentiments that have been expressed
by many faiths and traditions throughout our history.

Some paths believe that we move from our earthly body
into a place of eternal contentment.

Others place faith in the continuity of re-incarnation.

There are people who believe that death is the end;
that after we shuffle off this mortal coil we simple cease to exist.

As the polar opposites of light and darkness reflect and define each other,
we (as living beings) reflect Death in our very existence.

We come from that place and to it we shall return.

We can theorize as much as we want about the nature of life
and what awaits us afterwards,
but the only true way of finding out is to experience it.

The same is true of everything we do –
philosophy may lay the foundation for possibilities,
but grasping a moment and living it
will flood our beings with a much more profound understanding.

Time flows forever on for us, but
in the Force there is no such concept.

To return to its embrace is to experience the Totality of all that is.
Such a thing is to be celebrated and welcomed
as much as this life is to be explored, honoured and enjoyed.

So. . .take a moment to reflect
on the people that have walked your path with you,
as antagonists or as valued companions.
Those that no longer enjoy the physical life that you once shared
but who live in the memories they created within you.

I am a Jedi

By jasonwilkins

I am a Jedi
A virtuous knight
I stand in the gap
Between darkness and light
A voice of comfort
To those who have need
And of caution to those
Who are evil in deed
A sword always ready
A pool, calm and still
I am all, I am nothing
I am Force, I am will
A shield and a balance
A servant to all
I am Jedi and One
I will answer the call.

I am a Jedi

By Akkarin

An Alternative creed based on the Serenity prayer of Reinhold Niebuhr -from my service 19/Jan/2014.

I am a Jedi:

I accept the things I cannot change;
I have courage to change the things I can;
I have wisdom to know the difference.

I am a Jedi:

I live in the present;
I enjoy one moment at a time;
I accept hardships as a pathway to peace;
I take this world as it is, not as I would have it;

I am a Jedi:

I trust The Force;
In doing so things become right;
In doing so I am content;
Forever in our everlasting life.

You are a Jedi.

May The Force be with you, always.

As They Are

Proteus

Be things as they are.

Do things as they do.

Know not one but all.

Know not all but one.

Breathe and feel life.

Smile and know joy.

Laugh and know play.

Nothing else matters.

All that Is

May the Force grant us the strength to say goodbye to that which we have cherished, the courage to continue to walk without those we have loved, and the understanding to know that all is as it should be. In honor of all that has gone, all that is and all that shall be, May the Force be with you all.

Prayer

Iyanla Vanzant
Post by Phortis Nespin

In my deepest, darkest moments,
what really got me through was a prayer.
Sometimes my prayer was 'Help me.'
Sometimes a prayer was 'Thank you.'
What I've discovered is that intimate connection
and communication with my creator
will always get me through because
I know my support, my help,
is just a prayer away.

I Give Thanks

Posted by Brian

I give thanks to all that support me,
to everything that moves me,
to the trees, to the sea,
to the host of divinity.

In the flowers by the house
are the secrets that do abound,
see them on the holy mound,
beneath of which there is no sound.

I give thanks to all that sustain me,
everything I taste around me,
to the fruit in the trees,
to the voice of divinity.

In the tree beside the house
are the secrets that do abound,
running through the sacred ground,
making all their sacred sounds.

I tell you it is the way, my dear,
when the trees become our seers.

Gratefulness

Joseph T. Renaldi

Posted by Phortis Nespin

I am grateful for the eyes that I can see
the activities that can be done by me.
I am grateful for the ears that I may hear
the sobbing of those who need me near.
I am grateful for the lips that I might speak
words of comfort and peace to all who seek.
I am grateful for a mind that I might know
how to aid those who need me so.

I am grateful for the hands that I might do
some arduous or simple task for you.
I am grateful for the ability to always pray
to give me strength and guidance everyday.

I am grateful for one thing, all else above
that I was given a heart, that I may love.

A Change of Worlds

A Lakota Indian Inspiration I heard used at a Funeral...

posted by Phortis Nespin

When a man dies, he is not dead.
He has merely changed his World instead.
His vision may become that of a Tall Tree,
Looking out in all directions at once.
His vision may become that of a Tiny Ant
With his nose as his horizon.
His vision may include the voice of Stars or
The humming song of Leaves. Who Knows?

In this World a man can also be
The warm breath of the Summer Wind
Or the comforting blanket of Winter Snow.
In this World a man who is a Raven
Is also a man who is a Stone.

Each living thing has lived before:
The Bird, The Tree, The Man.

Why fear this change of Worlds, my friend?
Your courage travels with you.
Your example is left behind
So that others may know
The sweetness of your time.

Great Spirit

Inspired by and Guided by the prayers Wescli posted:

Oh, Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind,
Whose breath gives life to all the world.
Hear me; I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty,
and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made
and my ears sharp to hear your voice
Make me wise so that I may understand
the things you have taught my people.
Help me to remain calm and strong
in the face of all that comes towards me.
Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.
Help me seek pure thoughts and act with the intention of helping others.
Help me find compassion without empathy overwhelming me.
I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
but to fight my greatest enemy
- Myself (My fears and my doubts).
Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
my spirit may come to you without shame.

Awakening

Oh North Star Light, Star Bright
First Star I See Tonight
The Way of the Jedi, The Way of Maji
As I Awaken to the Living Force
As I Honor The Awakening and Living Light In All Humanity
No One is Ever Alone
The Great Rays and the Living Force is with us all

There is no death or evil shadow to fear
Forgiveness and Compassion, daily manna, walk with us
As the ancient lies and memories melt into nothingness
In the Presence of the Force's stillness and ways
Awakening Together we walk with each other
Remembering who we truly are
Wholly Self crystal clear
Oh Joyful Awakening Each the Day
Thankful Each the New Year

Living Force

by Mareeka

Living Force,
I am lost as to where to go.
I cannot see the way ahead.
I cannot know for certain where it will lead.
Who am I?
Just because I think I trust in Your will,
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that my desire to be mindful of You,
does in fact envelope all life with Your positive energy.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me on the right way,
though I may not know anything about it.
Therefore, I will trust you always,
although I may seem to be lost
and walk in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for You are always with me,
and You will never leave me to face darkness alone.

Living Force

by Wescli Wardest

Living Force of Creation
I thank you for the wonders of this universe
the joy of knowing that I am one with all life
that I am here now through you
and can observe and influence those around me
just as you influence me

Help me to greater appreciate the life I have
and the things others have to offer me
and the things I have to offer to others
Living Force, help this Jedi to be what I should be
to do what I should do

May the Force be with me and with us all

The Force

By Alexandre Orion (Leandros Von's knighthood)

Posted by MCH

Let us be empty of all illusions,
The Force is wisdom eternally inexhaustible.
Fathomless for the mere intellect,
The Force is the law wherewith all things come into being.
It blunts the edges of the intellect,
Untangles the knots of the mind,
Softens the glare of thinking,
And settles the dust of thought.
Transparent yet invisible,
The Force exists like deep pellucid water.
Its origin is unknown,
For it existed before Heaven and Earth

LIFE

Life isn't about keeping score.
It's not about how many friends you have.
Or how accepted you are.
Not about if you have plans this weekend or if you're alone.
It isn't about who you are dating, who you used to date,
how many people you've dated,
or if you haven't been with anyone at all.
It isn't about who you have kissed. It's not about sex.
It isn't about who your family is or how much money they have.
Or what kind of car you drive. Or where you were sent to school.
It's not about how beautiful or ugly you are.
Or what clothes you wear, what shoes you have on,
or what kind of music you listen to.
It's not about if your hair is blonde, red, black, brown, or graying.
Or if your skin is too light or too dark.
Not about what grades you get, how smart you are,
how smart everybody else thinks you are,
or how smart standardized tests say you are.
It's not about what clubs you're in or how
good you are at "your" sport.
It's not about representing your whole being on a piece of paper
and seeing who will "accept the written you."

LIFE JUST ISN'T

But, life is about whom you love and whom you hurt.
It's about whom you make happy or unhappy purposefully,
It's about keeping or betraying trust. It's about friendship,
used as a sanctity or a weapon.
It's about what you say and mean,
maybe hurtful, maybe heartening.
About starting rumors and contributing to petty gossip.
It's about what judgments you pass and why.
And who your judgments are spread to.
It's about whom you've ignored with full control and intention.
It's about jealousy, fear, ignorance, and revenge.
It's about carrying inner hate and love, letting it grow, and spreading it.
But most of all, it's about using your life to touch or poison other people's hearts in such a way
that could have never occurred alone.
Only you choose the way those hearts are affected,
And those choices are what life's all about.

Living Force

Living Force of Creation
I thank you for the wonders of this universe
the joy of knowing that I am one with all life
that I am here now through you
and can observe and influence those around me
just as you influence me

Help me to greater appreciate the life I have
and the things others have to offer me
and the things I have to offer to others
Living Force, help this Jedi to be what I should be
to do what I should do

May the Force be with me
and with us all

Living Force

Living Force,
I am lost as to where to go.
I cannot see the way ahead.
I cannot know for certain where it will lead.
Who am I?

Just because I think I trust in Your will,
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that my desire to be mindful of You,
does in fact envelope all life with Your positive energy.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me on the right way,
though I may not know anything about it.

Therefore, I will trust you always,
although I may seem to be lost
and walk in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for You are always with me,
and You will never leave me to face darkness alone.

I as the Force (a mantra)

By Phortis Nespin

I breath in the Force; I breath out the Force
I move with the Force; I am motionless with the Force
I think with the Force; I am empty with the Force

I am Kind with the Force; I am Compassionate with the Force
I defend with the Force; I heal with the Force
I Serve with the Force; I Love with the Force

It is the Light in the Darkness; It is the Darkness in the Light
It is All Things; It is Nothing
It is Life; It is Lifelessness

The Force as I; I as the Force

Living Force,
by E-3_4L_Teeter

Guide me to where I am most needed
For I know not where you take me
Yet I know that you still carry me
Forward
With purpose
And thus I carry on knowing
That wherever I may go
I am destined to be here
and I will let your light show

Into the Darkness

~Jedi Koji

Stepping out into darkness again,
Another life, another mission soon to end,
Ever unsure but always hopeful,
For The Lord of All is near.

Inside every heart and soul
The beacon on truth shines bright,
The time is now to not say
"You need to know The Lord!"
For we are already in his sight.

Know him as you will
For it is not by good works
Nor by money in which we are freed,
But in our connection to freedom itself,
Allowing us to be righteous and Holy,
Set apart for God.

Quatrains

By Alexandre Orion

Une forte averse nocturne
Réveille les amants,
Inonde la vallée.

A heavy nocturnal rain
Wakes the lovers,
Floods the valley.

Un père sans père
A du mal à trouver l'équilibre.
Un maître sans maître
Est dangereux.

A father without father
Has difficulty finding balance.
A master without master
Is dangerous.

Une ville sur une colline,
Au-delà, une terre intacte.
Une étendue vierge est
Le secret de la fertilité.

A city on a hill,
Beyond, a land intact.
A virgin expanse is
The secret of fertility.

Festoyer est une flamme au cœur de l'hiver
Qui nourrit le feu de l'amitié
Et renforce la communauté.

Feasting is the flame in the heart of Winter
That feeds the fire of friendship
And strengthens the community.

Des images sur l'autel,
Ou dans l'imaginaire :
Nous leurs dédions nos prières,
Mais répondent-elles ?

Images on the altar,
Or in the imaginary :
We dedicate our prayers to them,
But do they respond ?

Un vieil arbre noueux,
Trop fibreux pour la scie du bûcheron,
Trop tordu pour l'équerre du charpentier,
Dure plus longtemps que la forêt entière.

An old knotted tree,
Too fibrous for the lumberjack's saw,
Too twisted for the square of the carpenter,
Lasts longer than the whole forest.

Ne nous laissons pas troubler
Par le kaléidoscope de la réalité ;
Exerçant la sagesse et le courage d'agir,
N'ajoutons pas à la confusion.

Let us not be troubled
By the kaleidoscope of reality ;
Exercising wisdom and courage to act,
Let us not add to the confusion.

La lumière pure concentre toutes les couleurs.
C'est pourquoi elle est incolore.
C'est seulement lorsque l'unité est dispersée
Que surgit la couleur.

Pure light concentrates all of the colours.
This is why it is colourless.
It is only when the unity is dispersed
That colour emerges.

Le lit sous le courant de l'eau,
Un pin parfumé.
Terre de roches rouges,
Montagne escarpée.

The bed beneath the watercourse,
A perfumed pine.
Earth of red rocks,
Rugged mountain.

Le paradis et l'enfer :
Notre inconscient.

Heaven and Hell :
Our unconscious.

Le ciel et la terre contiennent l'horizon ;
Peu importe le profil déchiqueté,
Le ciel s'y adapte fidèlement.

The sky and the Earth contain the horizon ;
No matter how irregular it is,
The sky adapts itself faithfully.

Lorsque les oiseaux volent trop haut,
Ils chantent faux.

When the birds fly too high,
They sing off.

La proie passe devant le tigre
Qui parfois simplement observe,
Parfois s'élance sans hésitation,
Mais ne manque jamais d'agir.

The prey passes before the tiger
Who sometimes simply observes,
Sometimes bounds without hesitation,
But never fails to act.

Les démons qui pénètrent dans notre sphère
Doivent être expulsés.

The demons that penetrate into our sphere
Must be expelled.

Member Created Ceremonies

Easter Liturgy for Christian Jedi

By Phortis Nespin

GATHERING AND MUSICAL PRELUDE (* = please stand)

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 118:14-24 - from the rear of the Sanctuary)

L God's Force is my strength.

P God's Force has become my salvation.

L There is a song of joy and victory in the tents of the righteous.

P The right hand of the God has triumphed!

 The right hand of the God is exalted!

L Because of the God's victory I will not die.

P Instead I will live and proclaim what God has done.

L Open to me the gates of the Temple.

P I will go in and give thanks to the God.

L I will give thanks to God, for he has answered me.

P He has become my salvation.

L The stone the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all.

P God has done this. It is marvelous in our eyes.

L This is the day of God's victory.

P Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P And also with you.

L Let us Pray.....

P Most gracious and loving God, you who have swallowed up death with the resurrection of Christ Jesus, bring about in us new life with him.

L Pour your Holy Spirit upon us and give us hearts and minds fitting for your praise.

P Grant to us your continual help. Make us die every day to sin so that we may live with him forever.

L You give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal

P We ask these things in the name of your risen Son, he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now, and forevermore.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN: "This Is The Day"

A READING FROM I CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. {2} By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. {3} For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, {4} that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, {5} and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. {6} After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. {7} Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, {8} and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. {9} For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. {10} But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. {11} Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

L This is the word of the Lord

P Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING:

L Christ is the visible image of the invisible Force,
the first born over all Creation;

P For in him all things were made, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities,

L All things were created through The Force and for The Force.

P The Force is before all things and in him all things hold together.

L Jesus Christ is the beginning, the first born from among the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

P In him all the fullness of The Force was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, Making peace by the blood of his cross.

A READING FROM MARK 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. {2} Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb {3} and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" {4} But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. {5} As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. {6} "Don't be alarmed," he said.

"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. {7} But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into

Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" {8} Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

L This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord
P Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN: "I Danced In the Morning"

SERMON:

Today is a day like no other, for today is the day that proves all days. Today by the grace of our God and of the living Force that was manifest as a man, Jesus Christ returned to the heavens as a being of the Force. But more than just returning to the Force, Jesus returned to his disciples in full human form to prove to us that there is a life after physical death, and that life is one in the Force granted by the power of almighty God.

There are so many things that lead to this day. From the time of Abraham through the age of Mary, the path of Jesus was set. His path in the Force was set by God to redeem us from our sins and to show us a way back to everlasting bliss in the light of the Force. There are many religions in the world that talk about virgin births and the saintly offspring. For me this is indicative of the path of enlightenment that can only be attained by a holy and spiritual life completely consumed in the quest for knowledge in the truth of the Force, and of God.

So how did Jesus get to this point in his path to bring us salvation? His life begins with the virgin birth.

A virgin birth, by my opinion, can only be attained by first having shed all of the impurities of desires and degradations. When a person has attained full knowledge of the world without giving into temptations of the flesh, or of the mind, only then can they be considered for virgin birth. One who has purified their body and mind from all forms of hatred and lust, selfish ego and abuse of others, can be considered for virgin birth. Only a woman, who has walked in the path of God and lived life in the holiest of ways, can be made to serve God with a virgin birth.

It is in this virgin birth that a man may be able to begin life with a mind already quenched of evil thoughts and desires. Throughout life Jesus was tested, and with every test he proved, that a life on the path of God can bring us to everlasting life in the Force. Whether it was in his family life or his public life, Jesus proved that it is possible for us to "turn the other cheek", to serve others before ourselves, to give ourselves completely to the teachings of God, to be tempted by the most evil of enemies, only to turn to the laws set forth by God and remain unyielding on his path.

The path laid out for Jesus was terrible. He knew his fate but he continued on. Only a man born of the Force could withstand the torment to befall him. But he knew his fate and continued on. He could walk across water, turn a few fish and loaves into a feast, and change water into wine. Only a man born of the Force could perform such miracles. He knew his path and he walked it true. He raised the dead and cured the sick. Only a man born of the Force could summon the nature of God to perform such miracles.

So after all the trial and tribulation that Jesus faced, the evil doers could not find a fault or crack in his armor. So the cowards turned to a weak minded ruler and tormented Jesus through violence. And yet he turned the other cheek. He was made to carry the cross on which he was to hang, and yet he remained silent. He was mocked and placed hanging with two real criminals, and yet he forgave them. Finally in his last moments, beaten and bent, he asked why, but he already knew the answer.

"INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT"

God, the maker of all things, including the essence we know as the Force, set the path for Jesus at the beginning of time. Jesus was guided by the Force to his end so that we could know the path to everlasting life. Now, after physical death, he is guided by the Force to his friends and family to verify that all that God has taught us about a spiritual life in the Force is possible. We celebrate today, when Jesus Christ's Force Spirit came back to stand with his disciples in the glory of God to save us from eternal damnation and prove eternal life.

Let us Pray –

Creator and maker of us all - bless the words of my lips and the meditations of our hearts - grow thou in us and show us your ways and inspire us to live by your truth. Amen

We celebrate today the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Praise be to God our Father who raises the dead to life,
Praise be to Jesus the Son who shares his life with the faithful,
and Praise be to the Spirit who makes one with him. Amen

BLESSING FROM THE FORCE

Come, Living Force of Creation,
almighty Sanctifier,
Power of love,
who envelopes all life with positive energy,
come and sanctify us.
Replace the tensions within us with righteous peace.
Replace the fears within us with quiet confidence.
Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of respect.
Replace the coldness within us with a loving warmth.
Replace the night within us with Your consoling light.
Fill our emptiness.
Dull the edge of our pride.
Sharpen the edge of our humility.
Let us see ourselves as You see us,
Let us see others as You see them.
Enlighten our minds,
strengthen our wills,
purify our consciences,
rectify our judgment,
set our hearts on fire,
and preserve us from the misfortunes of resisting Your inspirations.
Teach us to see Your design in all of creation.
May the Force be with us always.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord Jesus, today we greet you, risen from the dead, victorious over sin and death, over suffering and shame, over all evil and wrong. Keep us mindful of those who labor under these burdens this day and grant them your peace and comfort.

Lord hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, we greet you, risen from the dead, overcoming by the power of love, by patient trust and perseverance, by faith in God alone. Grant that all your people may have your heart and your mind among them and help them to minister to one another and to your world in your name.

Lord hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, we greet you, risen from the dead, proving that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Grant that your most Holy Church and the people of this congregation might show forth the fruit of reconciliation and draw all people unto you and the peace you offer....

Lord, hear our prayer...

Lord Jesus, we greet you, risen from the dead, our living hope, and our power for each day. We pray O God that you might grant hope and pour out your power upon those we name before you now in the silence of our hearts.....

Lord hear our prayer....

Lord Jesus, we greet you, risen from the dead, our savior and our redeemer.

Bless we pray now:

Prayers of intercession as shared

Lord Jesus, we greet You, risen from the dead and we offer you our thanks and our praise, our prayers and our worship, our devotion and our service, both now and forever. Amen.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS:

O God, we come with our offerings in response to your love. With the new life in Christ, we give ourselves in service to you and to our brothers and sisters. Receive the work we do and the gifts that we bring, that they and we may prove to be a blessing to you and to the world that Christ came to save.

We ask it in his name.

Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks"

COMMUNION LITANY:

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

P And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

P We lift them up to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

L Loving and Compassionate God, Father, all powerful and ever-living, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. We praise you with great joy on this Easter day, when

Christ rose in fulfillment of the promises you made through the law and the prophets. He is the true Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. By dying he destroyed our death; by rising he restored our life. And so with all creation, and with all the company of the redeemed, we magnify your glorious name, evermore praising thee, saying

P Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.

L Lord, you are holy indeed. You are gracious to all who turn to you and keep your promises to all who trust in you. With grateful hearts we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

P Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

L We remember, O Father, in accordance with his command, how Jesus on the night he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks and praise. He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat. This is my body which will be given up for you.". When supper was ended he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, and then gave the cup to his disciples and said: "Take this, all of you and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

P When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

L Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain, to receive all power and wealth, wisdom and might, honor and glory and praise.

P Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Savior of the world.

L Loving God, send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that the bread we break may be for us communion in the body of Christ, and the cup of blessing which we bless may be for us communion in the blood of Christ;

that being built up in love we may be strengthened in the unity of the faith and come to the fullness of the stature of Christ our Lord. Amen

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT -

Departing Prayer (in unison)

L Let us pray

P Heavenly Father, you have nourished us with the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill us with your Spirit and make us one in peace and love. Amen.

DEPARTING HYMN: "The Strife Is O'er"

In the power of the Force we now go forth into the world, to fulfill our calling as the people of God.

BENEDICTION

Go in peace - love and care for one another in the name of God;

- and the blessing of the Ever-Present God be upon you,

- the power of the Risen Christ be within you,

- and the wisdom and gentleness of the Holy Spirit surround you and guide you both now and forevermore...

AT THE END OF CEREMONIES

May the sunlight warm your face, so that stranger, friend or kin may find comfort.

And may that light shine from your heart, like a candle set in the porch of a house, inviting the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

May the rain pour upon your Spirit, and wash away your sorrows.

And may its pools reflect the greatness of creation, revealing its beauty all the days of your life.

May the wind be always at your back, blowing new strength into your being.

And may its whistle fill your heart with gladness, sounding over the roofs of mountains for ever after.

May the earth keep you steadfast, soft under your feet as you pass along its paths.

And may it cradle you gently as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day.

May the Force be with you in everything you do

September 11th – Jedi Remembrance Day

By Phortis Nespin

(The hall should be lined with the flags of as many countries as possible)
(Colors of the Day should be red, white & blue – prominence of white)

Service starts outside the main hall.

(Music starts – What a Wonderful World – Louis Armstrong)

At ~ 8:40 the procession advances to the front of the service area (Alter) carrying the flags in the order of:

Lead flag – New York

Side by side – US and UN flags

Follow – TOTJO flag

The congregation follows the flags in and takes their seats.

(Upon conclusion of the music)

Reading –

The Jedi Creed

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace.
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi

"September 11, 2001--a day that will be remembered always. For out of the very worst man was capable of, the very best has been brought forth--through the heroic efforts by firefighters, police and rescue personnel; through the thousands of caring and compassionate volunteers who stepped forward in this time of crisis." Firefighters and police stormed up the stairs of the Twin Towers while its occupants helped each other make the long climb down (one man went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was).

People in charge of the city's rescue operations managed to save thousands of people in the World Trade Center.

Americans grieved together and untold citizens lined up to give blood for the people of New York City.

Knowing they were doomed, the passengers from flight 93 stormed the cockpit and prevented the fourth plane's kamikaze attack.

New Yorkers started rebuilding their lives and their businesses almost at once. (To quote an article about Europeans caught in Manhattan on that fateful day.)

Although standing only dozens of yards from and next to the Twin Towers the small 17th-century chapel in which George Washington had prayed when becoming the nation's first president was entirely spared, with not even a single broken window - naturally, St. Paul's Chapel served to house the wounded and, in the weeks that followed, the workers cleaning up the debris

(ringing of the fire bell in a pattern of 3-3-5, the old telegraph code signifying return to quarters.)

At 8:46 – Ring the bell for the firefighters 3-3-5 Return home

Read –

Luminous Beings Are We

We answer our call
The call of the Force
We answer our call
Without hesitation
We answer our call
While others decry us
As Freaks, weirdo's, or Witches
Yet we persist
For we have heard our call
and we have answered it
The call of the Force
We suffer the temptations of this Crude Matter
We suffer through bouts of Anger
We suffer through bouts of Depression
At times we feel alone
But we are never truly alone
For the Force is always with us
and it is now I say
Luminous Beings Are We
May The Force Be With You

Candle Lighting Ceremony – (ask that everyone light their candles)

The Candle

Sandy Keeney

There was a child standing outside, alone.
She was absorbed into the wall surrounding her.
By chance someone saw her there, saw her need,
And stopped to light her candle,
And she, in candlelight, glows.

There was a child without confidence.
She was afraid to try, worried about rejection.
Someone lit her candle with a smile,
A nodding of praise for her efforts,
And she, in candlelight, glows.

There was a child who couldn't be still.
She bounced and bubbled and never came to rest.
Someone filled her eyes with awe, and she saw

A gift of light, and emotions quieted her soul,
And she, in candlelight, glows.

There was a child searching for meaning.
Looking for direction that made sense to her.
Someone lit a candle to help her find a way,
With a Promise, a song, and a prayer,
And she, in candlelight, glows.

There was a child seeing a need in the world.
She didn't know what to do that would help.
Someone showed her a little light, flickering.
She lit the candles of others,
And she, in candlelight, glows.

Fire
Adopted from the *Girl Guides of Canada*

Eternal Force, fire is one of your gifts. Fire gives us warmth to comfort our bodies.
Help us to give the warmth of our love to others.

Fire brings light in the dark of the night.
Help our good deeds bring light to those in the dark.

Fire gives us heat to cook our meals.
Help us not to waste food, and to remember the hungry of the world.

Fire, used carelessly, can destroy.
Help us to use it, like all your gifts, in the right way.

Fire's dancing colors bring us beauty and joy.
Help us to spread happiness in a world that is often grey and sad.

We watch the fire with care, lest it leap out of control.
Help us to watch our words with care, lest we hurt a friend.

For fire, and for all your gifts, we give you thanks.

May The Force Be with Us

(Music – How do I live without you? – Leann Rhimes)

What is a Jedi? – Sermon

As I walk through life I have come to be watchful of those around me. I love to watch people and how they interact with each other, with those they know and those they do not. I am surprised sometimes by the fact that there are so many Jedi walking around out there that do not know that they are Jedi. I am surprised by the goodness I see in people who do not realize the good they are doing. I am surprised by the fact that I am a Jedi like the **firefighters** before me, although they do not know **they are** Jedi.

As I have read the 16 basic teachings of the Jedi and the vows of the Jedi, I have tried to gage my actions to those articles. The more I tried to reconcile myself to them, the more I noticed these basic actions and vows

were already present in many of my fellow firefighters. I had to ask myself...What is a Jedi? Does a Jedi have to take an oath to an Order or can he exist as a natural course of being?

There is one way in which I can become a great Jedi...practice, perseverance, and a steadfast dedication to the Jedi Code. It is to take the teachings of my fellow firefighters and follow in those footsteps. But where do I start? As I looked through the Vows of a Jedi I saw a couple that stood out from the others. Not that they are any more important than the others, but more to the point that they are more a part of who I am already. The Vows I speak of are: Respect, Defense, and Charity.

On September 11th 2001, a great evil was perpetrated upon the city of New York. 2996 conscious living beings were lost in a vile attack on innocent lives. Among these lives were 343 members of the FDNY, 23 members of the NYPD, 37 members of The Port Authority, 8 members of private medical services, and 40 passengers and crew on a flight over Pennsylvania. Not only them, but many others in the World Trade Center that worked to help others.

All of those that I have just mentioned worked without thought of their own safety. They moved in the opposite direction of those that fled the collapsing towers. The actions of those men and women came not from the orders of a military general who has to take a hill at any cost. No, it came from within.

So what does this have to do with the Vows of Respect, Defense, and Charity?

The Vow of Respect -

In order for any human to give his life for another, he must first value the life of another greater than his own. He must respect life in all its forms and accept life as sacred. He must respect the lives of those humans not worthy of saving as much as he respects his own life that he feels is worth giving up. Respect for life is an essential part of a Jedi's core values. If he cannot respect the life of another, he truly cannot respect his own. The firefighters, police, Port Authority members and all of the rescuers and the people of flight 93 knew that their lives were in great peril. They knew this during the making of the decision to act and at the end of their lives. The actions of the "ordinary" citizens on flight 93, knowing full well that any miscalculation will end in their death, took action because the lives of the people at the other end of this flight were more important than their own.

The welfare of the members of Congress or maybe even the President, were more important to the country than their own lives. Respect for the other lives in the United States can be counted not in the few that would be killed at the end of the flight, but at the untold thousands that would have their lives affected by the destruction of their governing body.

The Vow of Defense -

If you, like the samurai, give yourself willingly to death, than the defense of others is a natural response. It is natural in the knowing that the life you save or the country you defend is sacred. Your actions happen without hesitation and fear. You have given yourself to death and do not fear it's unknown. In knowing that your body is ultimately the property of death, you embrace the sacrifice of your life to those who have not yet attained enlightenment.

Those who gave up their lives did so in defense of the weak and helpless. They gave up their lives freely and without remorse. To say they were afraid is not possible, because at the moment that one realizes the end, peace overcomes fear. The actions of the rescuers and passengers, is the mandate of the Jedi.

The Vow of Charity-

It is redundant to talk of the Vow of Charity. To give of oneself the ultimate gift of your own life, is the most charitable gift one could give. Life is precious no matter whose it is. The rescuers are as in need as those they would help. When the fire crew sat down in the stairwell with the old woman who could go no further, their lives were as in need as the woman's. But they gave their lives to the will of the Force and sat down beside her.

It is in that moment that you must believe in a higher power, for they crashed down the falling tower in that stairwell, and survived. The hope and courage that those firefighters gave that day to the woman, alone and without a chance, enveloped them all in the glow of the Force and protected them.

There is a saying...Charity begins in the home. If you have ever been in a fire house you would know that charity begins where ever the firefighters are. SO, Jedi oath or not, those men and women that gave their lives, have the Force as their ally and are one with it on this day.

(Music – The World as I Know It – Collective Soul)

Read –

Knights Code

A knight is sworn to valor.
His heart knows only virtue.
His blade defends the helpless.
His word speaks only truth.
His Shield shelters the forsaken.
His courage gives hope to the despairing.
His justice undoes the wicked.
His image brings peace.
His code breaks the darkness,
His legend brings light

All these things are in the hearts and minds of all Jedi. This is how we keep ourselves in check to stay centered in the here and now, in the peaceful and enlightened state we need to be in.

At 9:37 – Ring Bells for Police and Port Authority 7 bells x3

We ring these bells 7 x 3 for the Police Officers, Port Authority Officers and the Members of Our Military for their sacrifice so others may live.

Tao Te Ching – Sermon

If you have read the Tao Te Ching of the Jedi Order, you will recognize these two verses. Listen as I read them to you aloud.

2 When people see some things as beautiful, other things become ugly. When people see some things as good, other things become bad. Being and non- being create each other. Difficult and easy support each other. Long and short define each other. High and low depend on each other. Before and after follow each other. Therefore the Jedi acts without doing anything and teaches without saying anything. Things arise and they let them come; things disappear and they let them go. They have but don't posses, act but don't expect. When their work is done, they forget it. That is why it lasts forever.

22 If you want to become whole, let yourself be partial. If you want to become straight, let yourself be crooked. If you want to be full, let yourself be empty. If you want to be reborn, let yourself die. If you want to be given everything, give everything up. The Jedi, by residing in the Force, sets an example for all beings. Because they don't display themselves, people can see their light. Because they have nothing to prove, people can trust their words. Because they don't know who they are, people recognize themselves in them. Because they have no goal in mind, everything they do succeeds. When the ancient Masters said, "If you want to be given everything, give everything up," they weren't using empty phrases. Only in being lived by the Force can you be truly yourself.

These two verses are similar in the respect that the opposites must be understood as fact. The Jedi must have knowledge that the opposites balance each other. As the Light Side of the Force must balance the Dark Side of the Force, all thing must act in balance with its opposite. Every science class will tell the students the simple theory that "*for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction*".

Having now stated the obvious for you, my point here is that the events of 9-11-2001 were seen as a horrible and despicable act. I myself feel this way. But what I also see is the beauty of the aftermath. The opposite reaction of the horrible was the honorable way in which the people of the world reacted to the attack.

It is overwhelming to see the compassion that was displayed for the rescuers who without thought of self entered into the horror of the collapsed towers. It was overwhelming to see the compassion in the rescuers as they toiled day and night to *"let me look for just one more person"*. They both gave of themselves freely and without thought of what will I get out of this. Their work was for other and others worked for them. The rescuers acted without thought and the people saw this and acted thoughtfully. The people saw the rescuers in themselves and the hard and emotional work was made easy and light.

May the Force guide us all as we walk through life without thought and being thoughtful in return.

(Music – Amazing Grace – Faith Hill)

Ask for the candles to be blown out signifying the death of the innocent

We blow out these candles to symbolize the loss of life on that September morning. May the Force take them and care for them.

End of Ceremony Prayer from Liturgy Book

May the sunlight warm your face,
so that stranger, friend or kin may find comfort.
And may that light shine from your heart,
like a candle set in the porch of a house,
inviting the wanderer to come in out of the storm.
May the rain pour upon your Spirit,
and wash away your sorrows.
And may its pools reflect the greatness of creation,
revealing its beauty all the days of your life.
May the wind be always at your back,
blowing new strength into your being.
And may its whistle fill your heart with gladness,
sounding over the roofs of mountains for ever after.
May the earth keep you steadfast,
soft under your feet as you pass along its paths.
And may it cradle you gently as you lie out on it,
tired at the end of day.
May the Force be with you in everything you do.

(Music – Learn to be Still - Eagles)

Congregation is dismissed.

Samhain Ritual

By Phortis Nespin

A Ceremony for the Circle of Life To Pray for the Hunter and Honor the Hunted

(This ceremony is to be held outdoors, build a pyre with an alter to the south, so the congregation faces north)

(A procession of Hunters should place the instruments of the hunt on the alter in a ritual manner)

(A procession of Others should place the Pictures or other likeness of the animals to be hunted on the pyre)

(Congregation should wear costumes of animals and hunters through the ages, i.e. caveman through modern camo hunter)

(The alter should be set with corn, pumpkins, apples, squash, stalks and herbs)

(A call to the congregation to gather, Hunters in the inner circle and all others in the outer circle)

(Opening Song) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfHpiKekxaA&feature=related>

Opening Prayer - Personal Focus (Spoken by the moderator of the event)

Today is a time to reflect on the past year, to remember our deeds and the love of friends.

It is a time to reflect on our poor choices and remember the suffering we brought unto others.

It is the time to make changes within you, so that your true nature is manifest in yourself and your life.

Samhain is also a time to communicate with the deepest part of our selves, and reflects on our personal ghosts or demons. To make peace with ourselves so that we end the suffering that torments our souls and therefore torments others.

Make peace with the past because it is unchangeable. Make peace with your friends who have stood by you in times of torment.

Getting rid of negative things in your life, settling old debts, releasing old grudges and begin your new life. As the mighty oak dies in fall, only to drop the acorn, the seed of new life, so should you let your old self die only to shed new life through your kindness and compassion.

As the season of harvest comes to a close, let us gather here today to honor our forefathers and their contributions to our society. Let us honor our mother earth for providing a bountiful harvest. And let us honor the Great Spirit for the precious animals that will sustain us through winter.

A Hunters Prayer for Honor (Spoken by one of the Hunters)

O Great Spirit, I am a hunter
I seek to take the life of your precious animal
Let me not attempt the shot beyond my skill
For they are your creatures given for our use
But each one falls within your sight, they're not for our abuse
And when I loose my arrow, please guide it swift and true
Or let it miss completely, that pain be not undue
A clean kill or no kill, such is my heart's desire
Give me the skill to make it so, or let me hold my fire
And when my time upon this earth is fulfilled
Grant that I may die at least as clean as those I killed

A Forest Prayer (Spoken by one of the outer circle)

I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights.
I am the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun
I am the fruits that hold refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.
I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat.
I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin.
I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty.
'Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: Harm me not.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Hunt (Spoken by one of the Hunters)

Great Spirit, I thank you for the opportunity to go on the hunt. I thank you for the time alone to think and reflect on my life. I thank you for the time to be with friends on the hunt, enjoying good fellowship, good stories, and filling meals. Thank you for the beautiful scenery during the hunt and for the game taken and shared. I thank you especially for a safe hunt for myself and all the hunters who share the field.

(Prepare to light the pyre while the Hunters Prayer to the Slain Animal is read)

**A HUNTER'S PRAYER
(to the slain animal's spirit)
(Spoken by the moderator of the event)**

Life is a circle.
At first, we do not exist in this world.
Then we are born, grow, and thus live.
Then after a while, when we must relinquish our existence in this world, the circle is complete.
Some circles are very small, others much larger.
We do not much control where the circle starts or ends.
But within this circle, we are players whose performance is a balance of conscious and unconscious choices; influences from that which is imprinted within our species and that which is imposed from without.
As such, I have not chosen to be predator any more than you have chosen to be prey.
The circle of life demands that there be both.
I accept that as predator, I have the awesome responsibility of being swift and sure, for carelessness may cause you suffering, and that I cannot bear.
Yet, because I am sometimes less than I can be, I will cause suffering.
May I be thus judged by the sincerity of my intentions, and the purity of my heart, and when it is deserved, may I be forgiven.
I celebrate the way you lived; I wish I could live my life as well.
Your courage and love of life was not a minor thing.
Therefore, it is now with both sorrow and reverence that I now thank you, <animal species>, for giving your life, and I honor your life by pledging that through your death will come sustenance for renewed life.
(Light the fire)
Now that your spirit has been set free, it can go where it will.
However, if you think I am worthy, perhaps you will honor me by allowing your spirit come into my heart where it can live within me and be my counsel.
And when life comes full circle for me, may both of our spirits be set free in a better place—
where the "lion can lay with the lamb", and we will feel sorrow and fear no more.

jdg 1999

Prayer to Share the Fruit of the Hunt (Spoken by one of the Hunters)

O Great Spirit, I am so blessed to be able to hunt, and I appreciate the blessings you have bestowed upon me. Yet I know that so many others are in great need. Give me the grace to share the food of the hunt not only with my family and friends, but also with those who have a greater need; the hungry and the poor. As they ask you, Great Spirit, for their daily meal, use me as one small instrument to help provide for my fellow man.

Closing Intercession

By Starhawk

(Moderator) A year of beauty. A year of planting.
A year of harvest. A year of plenty.

(Congregation) This year may we renew the earth.

(Moderator) A year of forests. A year of healing.
A year of vision. A year of passion.
A year of rebirth.

(Congregation) This year may we renew the earth.

(Moderator) Let it begin with each step we take.
And let it begin with each change we make.
And let it begin with each chain we break.
And let it begin every time we awake.

(Congregation) This year may we renew the earth.

Ending Prayer

Living Force of Creation

I thank you for the wonders of this universe the joy of knowing that I am one with all life;
That I am here now through you and can observe and influence those around me just as you influence me;
Help me to greater appreciate the life I have and the things others have to offer me and the things I have to offer to others;
Living Force, help this Jedi to be what I should be, to do what I should do;

May the Force be with me and with us all, And May the Force keep you safe as you renew ...The Circle of Life!

(Closing Song) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C21G20kHEYo>
(The service should follow with a buffet of treats based on the season)
(Remember to completely extinguish the pyre)

October 25th- JEDI MEMORIAL DAY

By Phortis Nespin

(Jedi should be in their robes)

Arrive ahead of time and construct a funeral pyre

(Make sure you have permission from the local authorities and fire department)

(Held outdoors at Dusk or full night)

(Gather at the north side of the pyre)

(Light the Pyre)

"Brothers and Sisters in the Force...

It is our custom to assemble ourselves each year to honor the lives of those who have shrugged off their physical selves and become one with the Force. As Jedi we do not ask why death has visited us, for we have already been granted the wisdom to understand the answer... death is a natural part of life, a transition from the physical body to the spiritual energy of the Living Force.

All life is connected through the Force, and death is merely a transition from the crude physical matter we inhabit to the pure luminous form. Just as life is drawn from the Living Force upon birth, so does life return to the Living Force upon the transition of physical death. We are thankful for the loving memories of those dear to us who have become one with the Force, and those of us who live on in their absence can take comfort that their presence is still among us, connecting us all through the Force. Remember them as they were in life, for that connection lives on in each and every one of our hearts. Do not mourn for their loss, for they would want us to celebrate instead for the life they lived while among us.

"There is no Death; There is the Force."

Death is not the end, but only the termination of the phase which we call mortal life... and the beginning of another. The dust of the physical body returns to the earth, but the energy of life rejoins with the Force. Through this knowledge we may call out our Brothers' and Sisters' names and honor their memory, secure in the knowledge that our voices do not travel endlessly throughout time and space, but is heard and understood by them through the Force.

May the Force be with us all.

The Jedi Creed

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace.
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The Force is always with me, for I am a Jedi

At the North of the Pyre

Miss me, but let me go

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom filled room
Why cry for a soul set free

Miss me a little - but not too long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss me - but let me go

For this is a journey that we must all take
And each must go alone
It's all a part of the Master's plan
A step on the road to home

When you are lonely, and sick of heart
Go to the friends we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds
Miss me - but let me go

by: Anon

Move to the east

Do not stand at my grave and weep;
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry;
I am not there, I did not die.

by: Mary Frye

Move to the south

Death is nothing at all
I have only slipped away into the next room
I am I, and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other
That we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes
We enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me,
Let my name be ever the household word that
It always was.

Let it be spoken without effort,
Without the trace of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant
It is the same as it ever was
There is absolutely unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of mind because I am
Out of sight? I am but waiting for you
For an interval
Somewhere very near
Just around the corner .
All is well.

Canon Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918)

Move to the west

A ship sails and I stand watching till she fades on the horizon
and someone at my side says
She is gone.

Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all.
She is just as large now as when I last saw her.
Her diminished size and total loss from my sight is in me, not in her.

And just at that moment, when someone at my side says she is gone,
there are others who are watching her coming over their horizon
and other voices take up a glad shout -There she comes!

That is what dying is.
An horizon and just the limit of our sight.
Lift us up O Lord, that we may see further.
by: Bishop Brent

Simple Sermon

Empty your mind of the grief caused by the passing of our friends. Why would you grieve for someone who is now in bliss with the Force? Let your heart be at peace with the passing of our friends. They are looking at you from the other side grieving for you because you have yet to attain bliss. Be compassionate toward those who grieve the passing of our friends, but do not grieve yourself, instead remember the happier times to come with those that remain.

Each one of us is a luminous being of the Force, and we will all return to that source. Remember that there will be peace and tranquility upon your return to the Force, the source of all. If you have not come to realize this simple truth, you will never be at peace. You will stumble about this existence in confusion and sorrow. You will suffer just to suffer. You will be found wanting without knowing what it is you are seeking. You will fear death instead of embracing the light of the Force.

Upon your awakening and realization that you are part of the Force, you will know without knowing, you will tolerate without tolerating, your interest in trivial things will be unknown to you. You will be amused and as

kindhearted as a grandmother, as dignified as a righteous king. When you realize you are forever in your enlightenment, there will be nothing that you will need to care about, because it is all known to you as The Force.

Immersed in the wonders of the Force you will be able to cope with all things, you will deal with all things calmly, you will be able to deal with all things as they come to you without turmoil. When death finally comes for you, it will not be a stranger that comes like a thief in the night, it will be like a loved one that welcomes you home.

Every one moves to make a circle around the pyre.

The Funeral Pyre symbolizes the release of our souls from our mortal bodies.

Funeral Pyre – throw the pictures of our deceased on the fire

[Jedi Code](#)

There is no Emotion; there is Peace.
There is no Ignorance; there is Knowledge.
There is no Passion; there is Serenity.
There is no Chaos; there is Harmony.
There is no Fear; there is Courage.
There is no Foolishness; there is Wisdom.
There is no Death; there is the Force.

[AT THE END OF CEREMONIES](#)

May the sunlight warm your face,
so that stranger, friend or kin may find comfort.
And may that light shine from your heart,
like a candle set in the porch of a house,
inviting the wanderer to come in out of the storm.
May the rain pour upon your Spirit,
and wash away your sorrows.
And may its pools reflect the greatness of creation,
revealing its beauty all the days of your life.
May the wind be always at your back,
blowing new strength into your being.
And may its whistle fill your heart with gladness,
sounding over the roofs of mountains for ever after.
May the earth keep you steadfast,
soft under your feet as you pass along its paths.
And may it cradle you gently as you lie out on it,
tired at the end of day.
May the Force be with you in everything you do.

25 May – International Jedi Day

By Alexandre Orion

Prior planning : everyone would be asked to bring “an offering”, something to share at the end of the ceremony, these placed on a table furnished for this purpose, just aside the setting for the ceremony.

Setting : Outdoors, in a Living Place, a circular, temporary construction that mixes ancient and ultramodern, with a source of electricity. Reminiscent of a druid stone circle, though its construction could be of any material, its apertures well aligned to modern star positions, sunrises at the equinoxes (with other coloured pillars, marked for the other ages in the precession of the equinoxes), in an inside ring a number of small alters, each illuminated by modern halogen spot and by standing brazier (with either fuel measured out to burn the duration of celebration), display the effigies of various mythic heroes who have undergone the Hero's Adventure (e.g. Gilgamesh, Arjuna, Odysseus, Perseus, Jason &c), including those of Luke Skywalker at the position of sunset (to symbolise his acceptance of the darkness in us all) and Annakin Skywalker/Darth Vader at the position of sunrise (to symbolise his redemption : his return from the dark side). This ring encircles the gathered assembly, at the southern point of the circle there is a larger fire recipient for light, and/or (since it is May) warmth.

The time of sunset being given as the commencement of the ceremony (21:38 if in France), small spot lamps (modern) and braziers (times past) providing a timeless atmosphere in lighting. As this will be a celebration of the arrival to our generation by our modern media the Hero's Journey of classic myth, the Jedi/Force theme of Williams is playing audibly, yet not loudly, as the participants arrive : (I recommend this piece – The Force theme, but that is only my recommendation, other “heroic” theme music could be used – no lyrics)

As the last rays of sunlight fall under the horizon, a chime is sounded and the music fades slowly with the chime, not completely out, but to a very low volume. Participants may sit or stand as they like, those sitting on the ground grouped in the centre, those standing form the perimeter. The MC remains circulating as he may among the assembly as the sermon is delivered.

MC : The Force is with us.

Assembly : The Force is with us.

MC : We have assembled here this evening to offer our gratitude to the effort of Industry, Art and Opportunity that brought forth into the public of today that which was slipping into the shadow of the past, unilluminated by the lantern of History. The epic of the Hero's Adventure, that path which every living soul walks between the womb and the tomb, whether one is conscious of it or not. In every epoch, stories have served to illustrate this bold adventure of Life, that momentary canalisation of the Force which is every one of us in all the Times of the the Eternal Now, and this work, Star Wars, was conceived in that purpose. Should the Force have not inspired the teacher of its artist, many of us here would not have found the path we are on today.

Shall we take a moment and reflect on what lead us to the Temple of the Jedi Order, and what we have discovered herein.

(the music at low volume can still be heard ; the MC counts twenty-five breaths – a cord with twenty-five knots therein is a good measure for not losing count – [approx. 1:15 minutes and begins again] :

MC : The Force is with us.

Assembly : The Force is with us.

MC : We may view the Hero's Adventure, his call to adventure and the trials that lie beyond the threshold as the mythology of our Lives. We have All, at one moment or another, had to cross the threshold into the unknown, to face the death of the child we were, innocent and naïf, to become the adults we are Today, in this Eternal moment. We have all had to go into the belly of the beast, to confront the dragons of our most profound fears, to confront the Father and seek atonement. These are the "first steps into a larger World" laid before any who choose to follow the will of the Living Force.

(a short pause, perhaps 10 – 15 seconds, allows the participants to reflect on what we are saying – the music is still heard very low during silences)

And from the trials, the unknown, our deepest fears, our family conflicts – from every danger we face in Life, from these things we have wounds. The injuries that accrue as we progress are multiple. But, in the heroic tradition, we must rise with our challenges, and the scars that form from these wounds become our deliverance and inspiration to others. We are each and All the hero of our own legend. And the Force is with us.

Please reflect for a few minutes upon the trials encountered along the path, on wounds that are healed, and if any, those which are still quite fresh. It is these which build our character, these which show us we are human, and who we really are. It is these which cultivate the grains of Wisdom sown by the Masters.

(the music at low volume can still be heard ; the MC counts twenty-five breaths[approx. 1:15 minutes] and begins again) :

MC : And the Force is with us.

Assembly : (and) the Force is with us.

MC : And to and for the masters and mentors as well, we must give thanks. To and for our direct masters and mentors, to and for theirs, to and for theirs before them ... to and for the Grand masters of all times and generations. For what would be our Destiny without them ?

Our masters satisfy many rôles in our adventure, many needs we may not wish to admit we have. They provide not only spiritual and philosophic support when we need it – again, often not believing we do – but also the wisdom of their experience.

Our mentors and masters give of themselves – this is the greatest of gifts – and what they provide is crucial for the trials that are to come. It is our mentors and masters who show us the way across the threshold, how to survive the crossing, for they are often there to protect and guide us during our initial steps – for we do not see all the danger in our way – into and upon the Adventure. They are there to show us how to walk the path, and sometimes to make us slow down and walk before we try to run. It is our mentors and masters who provide us our arms and instruct us in their skilful employ. Our mentors and masters sharpen our discernment ; they teach us how to "cut away what is corrupt or without utility" from our focus. And it is by this careful training that we may progress.

It is from our masters and mentors that we refine our sense of moral and of ethic. In a sense, they carry on from where our childhood education left us, and that, at whatever stage. They become an adoptive parent in many respects, a trusted brother or sister ... and this they do freely and voluntarily. So, to and for our

masters and mentors, let us give thanks.

Shall we now spend a few moments in reflection of the teaching and guidance of all our masters and mentors, and let us give thanks for their silent sacrifice and dedication.

(the music at low volume can still be heard ; the MC counts twenty-five breaths[approx. 1:15 minutes] and begins again) :

MC : And the Force is with us.

Assembly : (and) the Force is with us.

MC : Yet, for as well as we are taught by our masters and mentors, that relationship must be temporary one. We cannot depend on their protection and guidance throughout all of Life's Journey, throughout the Adventure. With time and teaching, the master/mentor relationship must be felt within. If our training is effective, then we must not rely on our masters indefinitely, for it is in the nature of the Living Force that all things which have beginnings also have endings. We must say our adieu ; either when our teachers pass beyond Life's veil into the Force, or simply when they must move forward and teach others who follow closely in our footsteps. What better way of showing our gratitude, unto our masters, unto the Force Itself, than to take up the service of teaching that which we have been so lovingly taught ?

(a short pause, perhaps 10 – 15 seconds, allows the participants to reflect on what we are saying – the music is still heard very low during silences)

And our learners. Those to whom we have the privilege to teach and to guide upon their own mythic journeys, we should give thanks. As they take their first steps along their paths, similar yet not identical, to that which we have followed, are they themselves not in a way our guides also ? They remind us of lessons we have forgotten learning, of ourselves at that stage of our adventures, give us the opportunity to live it/learn it again and from this, they refresh us. And since the learner/teacher relationship is a particular one, are they not essential companions in the continuation of all our Lives ?

And let us not forget our friends. How short could our paths have been without the aid of our friends, Jedi and non-Jedi alike ? They are those who the Force manifests in our Lives for a short or long time, they also accompany us, help us, become part of us – and they also, whether conscious of it or not, are the heroes of their proper legends.

As we are taught, and as we may feel it, so it has been for all the generations. All these adventures interacting, enriching and driving one another. This is the Human experience, this is the Universe experiencing itself, this is LIFE.

So, for this evening and forever, let us give thanks for the Hero's Adventure we are and the privilege of the experience of it.

In observance of the hero archetype, let us recite the Knight's Code with reverence to the Heros of all Time, all those to whom we have cast our thoughts this evening and to all we meet upon the Way :

A knight is sworn to valour.

* assembly repeats

His heart knows only virtue.

* assembly repeats

His blade defends the helpless.

* assembly repeats
His word speaks only truth.
* assembly repeats
His Shield shelters the forsaken.
* assembly repeats
His courage gives hope to the despairing.
* assembly repeats
His justice undoes the wicked.
* assembly repeats
His image brings peace.
* assembly repeats
His code breaks the darkness,
* assembly repeats
His legend brings light
* assembly repeats

We should now close this liturgy in rising, those of you who are sitting, and saluting the Hero in one another. (Hereby everyone circulates to shake hands, hug, "faire les bises" or however they choose to re-greet one another. The music is slowly rising yet still not too loud. After a period of intermingling, the chime sounds again to direct attention once more to the MC)

We now close the liturgy, but not the ceremony – for those who wish, let us now spend a moment of conviviality in the spirit of the Hero and the Continuing Adventure. May the Force be with you.

Assembly : And also with you.

The music rises and continues to the end of the piece. It can now be changed to whatever one wants to listen to, and the party ensues around the table ...

October 31st

By Alexandre Orion

Prior arrangements : the company should dress in black, orange, and gold costume and jewellery. Each should be asked to bathe in a sea-salt bath beforehand, meditating on deceased loved ones as well as the year past and hopes/plans for the year to come. The preparation for the festival should be shared by all the assembly and in an ideal case, no one in particular should preside over it ...

Setting : sunset 31 October (17h32 si en France) indoors, in a long hall with tables dressed with black and orange. There are candles in the windows and outside of the doors are set bowls of milk and plates of bannock bread. Inside, all along the walls are tables also dressed and piled with squashes of all sorts, and autumn fruits, apples of all colours and potatoes ... these could be arranged in baskets or randomly placed, spilling out of a cornucopia or not ...

There would be a large hearth and a fire going at one end of the hall, and at the other, an alter dressed in white, on one and the other side stand banners with the TotJO symbol also in black, orange and gold. Two tall pillar candles are alight upon the altar, and an incensarium where smoulder Frankincense & Myrrh. These are also in a dish to one and the other side of the incensarium so that the participants may sprinkle a pinch of both upon the incensarium when/if they pass to the alter. A sphere of obsidian rests on its support in the centre of the alter, between the candles and just behind the incensarium (also centred). Eight smaller obsidian stones are to one side and the other of the central sphere, for a total of nine. Aside from these, the alter remains nearly empty, to allow room for the participants of the assembly to place things upon it. To one side and the other of the alter stand bowls of sea-salt, so that each in his/her turn may recast the circle about the alter when or should they choose to pass at the alter.

The music could be something of this order :

This is just a suggestion.

On another large table, between the alter and the feasting tables would be spread the fare. Roasted red potatoes and apples, breads and pies of pumpkin, bannocks and large earthenware jarres of hot cidre with clove and cinnamon seasoned.

At the end of the hall, and near to the fire, barrels of water are there where those who would like to may bob for apples – this a symbolic baptism.

There would be no sermon in particular for this festival, though anyone who would wish to may say some words about a loved one or loved ones who has/have passed beyond the veil. When the dinner would be taken, plates are filled and set at the tables in places reserved for them for the service of the departed whose spirits join in the celebration with us. We should all be encouraged to talk with them, for on this night when the veil between the Summerland and the world of the Living is permeable. The feast may last well into the night, with music and dancing, all in a lighthearted and joyous atmosphere of togetherness for the living and the departed alike.

Christmas/TOTJO Anniversary

By Wescli Wardest

FOR THE SEVICE:

Hold service during afternoon to evening. Use the colors white, blue and gold. Have several candles to light and incense to burn and decorate the walls and Alter with evergreen boughs. Have several evergreen boughs to pass out.

GREETING

Bishop or Priest (With arms raised)

Today, as we gather, not only are we here to celebrate the anniversary of TOTJO but also the community of people which meets here... visitors, members and everyone from all places that we share our lives with, and those that will come after us.

OPENING PRAYER

Bishop or Priest

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Living Force of Creation

I thank you for the wonders of this universe
the joy of knowing that I am one with all life
that I am here now through you
and can observe and influence those around me
just as you influence me

Help me to greater appreciate the life I have
and the things others have to offer me
and the things I have to offer to others
Living Force, help this Jedi to be what I should be
to do what I should do

May the Force be with us

People

May the Force be with us all

(Priest lights the candles on the Alter and hands the last candle to the Bishop which then lights the incense.)

FIRST TEXT READING

Knight or member of the congregation

From the sixteen basic teachings of Jediism #10

Jedi believe in destiny and trust in the will of the Living Force. We accept the fact that what seem to be random events are not random at all, but the design of the Living Force of Creation. Each living creature has a purpose, understanding that purpose comes with a deep awareness of the Force. Even things that

happen which seem negative have a purpose, though that purpose is not easy to see.

HYMN OR SONG

ALL

-Suggested-“Deck the Halls”, -or- We Wish You a Merry Christmas, *optional*Carol of the Bells (done by the V-Tog choir).

SECOND TEXT READING

Knight or member of the congregation

From the sixteen basic teachings of Jediism #14

We as Jedi believe that love and compassion are central to our lives. We must love each other as we love ourselves; by doing this, we envelope all life in the positive energy of the Force.

SERMON

Bishop

Christmas customs are an evolution from times long before the Christian period -- a descent from seasonal, pagan, religious, and national practices, hedged about with legend and tradition. Their seasonal connections with the pagan feasts of the winter solstice relate them to ancient times, when many of the earth's inhabitants were sun worshipers. As they observed the sun gradually moving south in the heavens and the days growing shorter, they believed the sun was departing never to return. The winter solstice, then, was the shortest day of the year, when the sun seemingly stood still in the southern sky. To encourage the sun's return north the sun gods were worshipped with elaborate rituals and ceremonies, including the building of great bonfires, decorating with great evergreen plants such as holly, ivy, and mistletoe. Being how evergreen means eternal life and a never-dying, self-renewing existence.

(At this point Knights pass out evergreen boughs.)

Observing the slowdown in the sun's southward movement, and its stop, they believed that their petitions to it had been successful. A time of unrestrained rejoicing broke out, with revelry, drinking, and gluttonous feasts. Then, when they observed the sun moving again northward and, a week later, were able to determine that the days were growing longer a new year was proclaimed.

A new year... How wonderful must it have been to know that the winter would be coming to an end? That soon it would be time to plant, hunt and harvest. As we gather tonight, around the yule log, it is in the same spirit as those that came before us. I'd like everyone to take the boughs in your hands and twist them on themselves making a wreath. (Hold high and demonstrate, wait a few minutes so that all can perform task)

We think of TOTJO, the years that have come before this one and the years that are to come. We think of all that has happened this last year and look to the promise of what is to come in the next. It is an ongoing cycle, just like the wreath you now hold in your hand. A circle; no end and no beginning; made from a hardy plant which weathers the seasons change and continues.

SECOND SONG

ALL

-Suggested-

“O Christmas Tree”

O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree
How loyal are your leaves/needles!
You're green not only
in the summertime,
No, also in winter when it snows.
O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree
How loyal are your leaves/needles!

O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree
You can please me very much!
How often has not at Christmastime
A tree like you given me such joy!
O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree,
You can please me very much!

O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree
Your dress wants to
teach me something:
Your hope and durability
Provide comfort and strength
at any time.
O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree,
That's what your dress should
teach me.

Prayer For Compassion

Bishop

Through wisdom which I gain through giving
and other virtues,
May I become a Jedi for the benefit of all.

At this time, let us take a moment and with a sincere smile and a warm heart, express our joy and love and peace to the ones near us.

(at this point everyone can turn and hug or shake hands and acknowledge the people near them.)

Bishop

And now, let us proclaim the Jedi Creed together.

ALL

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;

Where there is hatred I shall bring love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The Force is with me always, for I am a Jedi.

PRAYER

Priest
Let us all pray together.

All (Bishop Leads)
FOR ALL PEOPLE
Living Force of Creation, Bishop
help us to see the beauty
that we are, without and within.

Help us to love ourselves, unconditionally, without judgment.
Your radiance manifests through us and is
present within and around us at all times.
Our bodies are Your conduit and a vehicle for Your Work.
It is therefore deserving of love, respect and honor.

This day and always, help us to honor our bodies,
to love them unconditionally, and to be grateful for their service.

Bishop
May The Force Be With Us

People
May the Force be with us all

BLESSING

Priest

A BLESSING... (Taken from an Irish Blessing)

Travel light in life;
take only what you need;
a loving family,
good friends,
simple pleasures,
someone to love,
and someone to love you;
take enough to eat, enough to wear,
and a little more than enough to drink;
for thirst is a dangerous thing.

Optional ending

Priest

AT THE END OF CEREMONIES

May the sunlight warm your face,
so that stranger, friend or kin may find comfort.
And may that light shine from your heart,
like a candle set in the porch of a house,
inviting the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

May the rain pour upon your Spirit,
and wash away your sorrows.
And may its pools reflect the greatness of creation,
revealing its beauty all the days of your life.

May the wind be always at your back,
blowing new strength into your being.
And may its whistle fill your heart with gladness,
sounding over the roofs of mountains for ever after.

May the earth keep you steadfast,
soft under your feet as you pass along its paths.
And may it cradle you gently as you lie out on it,
tired at the end of day.

May the Force be with you in everything you do.

JEDI YOUNGLING DAY/ VOCATIONS DAY

By Wescli Wardest

Setting

Held in the evening, outdoors with everyone gathered around a pit fire.

The clergy should be dressed in robes standing behind a short alter (on it is a pen, paper and incense) and the banner in the background.

Gathering the people

Deacon/acolyte/assistant- Bells or a gong is rang (or the rattling of sticks) to gather the peoples' attention.

Greeting

Priest- We are gathered here this evening to celebrate those who have found their calling and the future generations who follow in our footsteps.

Let us begin with a prayer...

Opening prayer

Priest- For as long as space endures
And for as long as living beings remain
Until then may I too abide
To dispel the misery of the world.
May the Force be with you.
All- And also with you.

Text reading/Sermon

Priest- (lights the incense)

This is a holiday in which we celebrate Jedi Vocations and how they can be seen as fulfilling the spiritual need of Jedi, and the specific task for which each Jedi is specifically gifted. We also celebrate the Jedi younglings in which our future can be found. We share this Feast Day with many cultures around the world and with many religions; each celebrating with their own understanding and according to their own traditions.

Many Jedi which have found their vocations have done so by transcending one life into another. By letting go of what they were to become what they are. It is a natural part of life, to transcend and to grow and to move out of the realm we knew. And each time we do we leave something behind! I would like to think that what is left behind was the husk or shell we no longer needed as we make our journey forward and are planted on the path to where we are going. For many that have come before us this journey has already been made and they realize that it never ends; that it is a cycle ever repeating and ever ongoing; like the seasons of the Earth. And our younglings, our future have begun this journey on their own rather they realize it or not. Each year as they grow they transcend their old self and grow into a new existence where more of the universe is open to their eyes and the miracle of existence.

Whatever our theology, whatever our circumstances, there is meaning available to us in this holiday. This is a time very much about relationships, about change, about possibilities, about other worlds and ways that exist next to our own, about the eternal link between life and death, and about immanence; and, we witness all this in the world around us as we pass from Summer into Winter.

We all know what it is to turn inward in the cold of the year, to feel the world around us charged with something more than the realities we are used to. We all know what it is to feel something possible, and how it is to struggle to nourish that seed of joy, strength, vision; and, to root out the weed that can grow in each of us. A weed of pettiness or jealousy, depression or fear that keeps us from that full existence to which we were each born. We all know what it is to mourn the loss of one dear to us; to yearn for the stories and truths of our ancestors; to contend with the effects and meaning of death in our lives. And we all know what it is to feel the world around us charged with a fullness of life, a quality of miracle, in all its forms that conveys a sense of something we feel beyond all we see...something we cannot name, something we may doubt, but yet we have felt it.

For any and all of these themes, today offers us a chance or a way to lift our thoughts and spirits as we move into the winter season. I have a ritual to share today. From many interwoven themes, we are lifting up the aspiration to free ourselves of what we do not need or wish to carry with us. I invite you to use pen and paper and inscribe on it something - a feeling, an issue, an activity, a struggle - that you wish to be free of as we move into the next season. (priest waits) Now, take your piece of paper and toss it into the fire; and, in this way consign what was written out of this realm.(Priest waits for all to be back and the papers to burn) Just as you send these struggles away from you, so may that action aid your spirit and psyche as we do what we must to transcend what bears us down, and lift ourselves and each other to meet all the void and light, the grief and joy, and the whatever life may lie ahead of us.

Amen...

All- So be it.

Song/hymn/poem

Priest- Let us (hear the words of or, sing together) (name of choice.)
(recites a poem or leads in a song) note: songs keep people engaged.

Blessing

Deacon/Priest- (raises his hands while facing the group)

May the sunlight warm your face,
so that stranger, friend or kin may find comfort.
And may that light shine from your heart,
like a candle set in the porch of a house,
inviting the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

May the rain pour upon your Spirit,
and wash away your sorrows.
And may its pools reflect the greatness of creation,
revealing its beauty all the days of your life.

May the wind be always at your back,
blowing new strength into your being.
And may its whistle fill your heart with gladness,
sounding over the roofs of mountains for ever after.

May the earth keep you steadfast,
soft under your feet as you pass along its paths.

And may it cradle you gently as you lie out on it,
tired at the end of day.

May the Force be with you in everything you do.

Prayer

Priest- Living Force of Creation
I thank you for the wonders of this universe
the joy of knowing that I am one with all life
that I am here now through you
and can observe and influence those around me
just as you influence me

Help me to greater appreciate the life I have
and the things others have to offer me
and the things I have to offer to others
Living Force, help this Jedi to be what I should be
to do what I should do...

May the Force be with me
All- and with us allSending forth

Priest- As we go forward to face the new season, let us do it with open hearts free of husks of our past burdens as we plant ourselves on the path of our and our children's futures. (The group is then free to mingle and enjoy the fire in the woods by the light of an autumn moon.)

CHRISTMAS DAY (AND TOTJO ANNIVERSARY DAY)

By VTog

SETTING: This service could take place in any indoor room. I would envisage it being in a church-like building, with cushions on the floor in red and gold colours, and arranged in curved rows, sort of like semi-circles facing the front, in a 'landscape' format so that the rows do not go too far back. The building would also be decked out with red and gold drapes, perhaps with the TOTJO symbol on each of them. At the front would be a raised platform with more cushions arranged centrally for the minister(s) and reader (see service). This would negate the need for any moving around or standing up during the service, other than during the procession and the peace. The service would commence with music playing as people took their seats, and then the minister would read the opening sentences loudly from the back of the church, after which the procession would move from the back to the front.

MUSIC: Mary's Boy Child – as performed by Harry Belafonte
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfdx2V5sAic>

INTRODUCTION:

ME: Welcome, brothers and sisters, to our service of thanksgiving on this happy morning!

ME: Christ is born. Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL CAROL : O Come All Ye Faithful (verses 1, 2, 6 and 7)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiqcjFQBukM>

(Processional hymn to be led by crucifer and acolytes, followed by two banner bearers carrying the banner of TOTJO and the banner of the cross, followed by the minister, reader and any other clergy members at the back of the procession).

WELCOME:

ME: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shone. (Isaiah 9:2)

ME: May the Force be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

ME: We are gathered here today to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also the Anniversary Day of the Temple Of The Jedi Order, on which we give thanks for all members past, present and future and recognise the contributions of those who have made the Temple the place that it is today.

READING:

ALL: CELTIC ALLELUIA (sung) - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoaZq5eorpo>
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The word of the Lord last forever.

What is the word that is living?

It is brought to us through God's Son Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

READER (a pre-selected member of good standing within TOTJO, preferably a founding member or member who has had a large influence on the Temple. Could be read by the minister (i.e. myself) if no reader was forthcoming): The reading is taken from the first letter of John, chapter four, verses seven to twenty-one.

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God – for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us.

And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. All who

proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him.

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgement, but we can face him with confidence because we are like Christ here in this world.

Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgement, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us. We love each other as a result of his loving us first. If a person says, "I love God", but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar, for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we have not seen? And God himself has commanded that we must love not only him but our Christian brothers and sisters, too.

READER: Here ends the reading.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS:

ME: So today is Christmas Day. The most important day of the Christian Church's year, as many will tell you. Only, of course, it is not. Christmas marks the beginning of Christ's life here on Earth, of the 33 years until his death and resurrection. At Christmas, we look towards Easter.

In our reading, we heard about how God sent his Son into the world... 'that we might have eternal life through him'. In our creed, we state our belief that 'it is in dying that we are born to eternal life'. These two statements are almost identical.

Within our Christian rite, there are many and varying beliefs. No two of us has exactly the same faith. How you reconcile the notions of Heaven and of eternal life through the Force is up to you. But we can be assured that there is no reason to fear death. When we die, we will be welcomed by God and at one with the Force. Physical death has no hold over us, just as it had no hold over Christ. And that is why we rejoice at the birth of a baby that we know is doomed to die on a cross.

So, as we are told in the reading, we can now recognise the extent of God's love for us. He sacrificed his only Son to atone for our sins and give us the chance to have eternal life through Him. Knowing this, and knowing there is nothing to fear, we are free to love God with all our hearts, and to be beacons of God's love in the world. Christmas is the season of goodwill. What could you do personally to spread that love and goodwill to others?

As Jedi it is our duty to do what we can for others who need it. Our creed tells us that we should bring hope into despair, light into the darkness, and joy into sadness. Whilst we sit around opening presents, eating turkey, enjoying the company of our friends and families and celebrating the birth of our Lord, despair, darkness and sadness may sometimes seem a very long way off. Perhaps, occasionally, we may have been guilty of forgetting about such things completely on Christmas Day.

But, of course, they are out there. Whether that be in your life, the life of someone close to you, someone you barely know or someone you have never met. And whilst you are enjoying the season of Christmas, perhaps you could keep considering that question that I asked a minute ago. As a Jedi, as Christians, and more importantly, as a living, breathing, caring person, what could you do to bring hope, light and joy into the lives of those who have none this Christmas?

I would now like you to dedicate a few minutes to thinking about this whilst we listen to some music that

captures some of the mystery and wonder of Christmas, and of the Force.

MUSIC: O Magnum Mysterium – Morten Lauridsen http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moRcN_2pq0I
(Translation:

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!)

AFFIRMATION OF BELIEF (CREED):

ME: I now invite you all to affirm your belief in the Force and in your calling as a Jedi.

ALL:

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
I am a Jedi.
I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The Force is with me always, for I am a Jedi.

ME: We ask that God might help us to live these words in every aspect of our lives, and that through him, our connection to the Force might be strengthened and affirmed.

ALL: Amen.

CELEBRATION OF TOTJO ANNIVERSARY DAY

By VTog

ME: The creed that we have just spoken is part of the doctrine of our Temple. It did not just happen to come into existence, in the same way that nothing else of the Temple came about all by itself. Everything that we know of the Temple of the Jedi Order has been created or formulated in some way by various people over several years. Without them, we would not have this community.

ME: It is hard to single people out, as there are so many who have had a hand in the shaping of the Temple. But without one person in particular, we can be sure that the Temple would not exist. So we offer our thanks to Br. John, founder of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

ALL: We thank you. May the Force be with you.

ME: We offer our thanks to all past members who have played a part in making the Temple into what it is today.

ALL : We thank them. May the Force be with them.

ME: We offer our thanks to all who run the Temple today – to the council members, the administrators, the clergy members, the executive committee, and any others who assist in any way.

ALL: We thank them. May the Force be with them.

ME: We think of all those who will come after us and shape the future of the site, guiding future generations of Jedi.

ALL: We thank them. May the Force be with them.

ME: Dear Lord, we pray for all members of TOTJO, whether they be past, present or future. We pray that you may help them to know the Force more clearly, and we pray for their individual journeys on the path of Jediism that they are each undertaking, whether knowingly or not. Through your only Son Jesus Christ, born to us this day that we may know you now and always,

ALL: Amen.

ME: And now, we look to ourselves. Without each of you, the Temple would not be the same, or even exist. Each and every member is important. So as we share the Peace of the new-born Christ with one another, I ask you to give thanks for all of us here, and those current members who are not here with us today.

THE PEACE:

ME: The peace of the Lord be with you this Christmas and always.

ALL: And also with you.

ME: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

(The congregation shake hands, hug, or use other signs of peaceful greeting which they feel is appropriate).

HYMN - Calypso Carol <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FUav5VjPV4>

DISMISSAL:

ME: Rejoice and be glad this happy Christmas morning! Christ is with us! Go out into the world and spread the good news.

ME: May the Force be with you all this holy day and always.

ALL: And also with you.

BLESSINGS:

ME: May the sunlight warm your face,
so that stranger, friend or kin may find comfort.
And may that light shine from your heart,
like a candle set in the porch of a house,
inviting the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

May the rain pour upon your Spirit,
and wash away your sorrows.
And may its pools reflect the greatness of creation,
revealing its beauty all the days of your life.

May the wind be always at your back,
blowing new strength into your being.
And may its whistle fill your heart with gladness,
sounding over the roofs of mountains for ever after.

May the earth keep you steadfast,
soft under your feet as you pass along its paths.
And may it cradle you gently as you lie out on it,
tired at the end of day.

May the Force be with you in everything you do.
(From TOTJO's liturgical book).

MUSICAL BLESSING: A Gaelic Blessing – John Rutter
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GSWtHc22t8

SERVICE CONCLUDES.

The procession leaves to Star Carol – John Rutter <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gkVxW-CqM4&feature=related>. Congregation members are free to leave once the procession has exited. The minister and any other clergy members would greet people as they left.

SERVICE FOR JEDI MEMORIAL DAY

By VTog

SETTING: Brightly coloured (all colours) cushions should be arranged in a circle outside in a wooded area, or if not possible, in an area with a few trees. In the middle of the circle there would be a basket filled with relatively long and thin ribbons of all different colours. The service would preferably take place at dawn, to symbolise the dawning of the new life that begins through the Force after death. I would specifically choose not to have music preceding or during this service, as I would like people to be able to concentrate on the sounds around them, such as the wind in the trees and the birds tweeting as the Sun rises – again, to help them concentrate on the metaphor of the new day.

INTRODUCTION

ME: Welcome, brothers and sisters, to this service of remembrance and thanksgiving on Jedi Memorial Day. We are gathered here to rejoice together for those, both known and unknown to us, who have passed into the Force through death.

ME: May the Force be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

REFLECTIONS WITH RESPONSE:

ME: It is natural to grieve for those we have lost. But the time for mourning is now over. This is but a brief period of separation, after which we will be joined with our loved ones once again. (Brief pause)

ME: There is no Death;

ALL: there is the Force.

ME: It is often easy to feel alone and frightened. But in our hearts, we know that our loved ones are still present in the Force. Our connection with the Force means that we are connected to them. We are never truly alone. (Brief pause)

ME: There is no Death;

ALL: there is the Force.

ME: We all are of the Force, and we all will return to it upon physical death. Take heart in knowing that those who have passed are where they are meant to be. (Brief pause)

ME: There is no Death;

ALL: There is the Force.

CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE

ME: We cannot live our lives to the full until we have learnt to let go of those we fear to lose. Recall to mind now those whom you love who are no longer with us. (Brief pause)

ME: Think back over your times together. Do not fear the good memories, nor the bad. Picture them in your mind and be glad that you had the chance to know them. (Brief pause)

ME: It is now time to let go any feelings of sadness that you may have. I invite you, if you would like, to take a ribbon from the basket. Put your memories into the ribbon. Once you have done this, please tie your ribbon to a tree. The trees around us remind us of the natural world with which we often associate the Force. When you leave the ribbon, leave behind your sadness with it.

(Long pause whilst, in their own time, members of the congregation perform this task).

ME: I would now like to invite you to hold the hands of your brothers and sisters on either side of you, and close your eyes if you wish. (Brief pause)

ME: Feel your connection with the people directly next to you. Through them, feel your connection with every member of the circle. In the same way as this unbroken circle, we are connected to those who have passed into the Force. Everything and everyone is joined. Search for them and you will find them. (Longer pause)

ME: You may release your hands.

AFFIRMATION OF BELIEF (CREED)

ME: Our creed teaches us that in dying, we are born to eternal life. I ask you now to affirm your beliefs by repeating each line of the creed after me:

I am a Jedi, an instrument of peace;
Where there is hatred I shall bring love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

I am a Jedi.

I shall never seek so much to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
The Force is with me always, for I am a Jedi.

POST-CREED PRAYER/BLESSING

ME: This is what we believe. May these words guide you through each day and be a comfort in times of need. May they help you to draw on the Force and may they always help you to remember that death is but a gateway to oneness with the Force.

ME: There is no Death;

ALL: there is the Force.

DISMISSAL

ME: As dawn breaks, we remember that after night morning always heralds a bright new day. After death, awakening in the Force marks the start of a new journey, one full of joy rather than sadness. Go now, and let that joy conquer the sadness in your life.

ME: May the Force be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

SERVICE CONCLUDES

Congregation to depart in their own time. Again, I would purposefully choose NOT to have music at this point as some people may still be quietly reflecting on loved ones who have passed away. People would be entitled to depart immediately or stay as long as they like and meditate, perhaps on the ribbons still in the trees.

June 4: Founder Day (Br. John's Birthday)

By Desolous

(Takes place in the first physical Jedi Temple in the United States. I imagine its something like a medieval castle; lots of dark stone, high ceilings, dark and heavy, but not oppressive. Maybe kind of like Hogwarts. The walls are festooned with bright colors and streamers, as well as lightsabers set to illuminate the proceedings as well as slay all enemies, both foreign and domestic.)

(opening oration) Dearly beloved fellow Jedi, we are gathered here today to pay homage to our founder, Archbishop, Grandmaster and Senior Pastor, Br. John. For those of us who have had the distinct pleasure to meet, interact and share this journey with Br. John, we already know what kind of Jedi he is. We know his power, his passion, his leadership and guidance, which has seen us all as a Temple through the darkest of days, and helps steer us towards brighter tomorrows.

It is wholly appropriate then, that we gather to celebrate this auspicious day with other Jedi, and thank Br. John for all he has done for this Order. We are all indebted to him for his foresight, acumen and instruction in this quest we have all undertaken together.

Please, all rise. (The Imperial March plays for a minute). Oops, wrong song. (Aside: get that song right!) (A more Jedi like song begins, like the song at the end of Episode 4 of the Holy Trilogy, where Luke, Han and Chewie are approaching Princess Leia to be awarded their medals in their triumphant destruction of the terrible Death Star) Now please join me in the recitation of the refined version of the Jedi Code, established by Odan-Urr and transcribed by Homonix Rectonia during the Early Manderon Period:

There is no emotion, there is peace.
There is no ignorance, there is knowledge.
There is no passion, there is serenity.
There is no chaos, there is harmony.
There is no death, there is the Force.

Go in peace, my fellow Jedi. Remember our Patriarch, and May the Force Be With You, Always.
(Appropriate exit music begins, probably the Imperial March).

2. Select a feast day that is specific to one of the faiths supported by the Special Interest Groups (this may or may not also be a TOTJO feast day) such as Easter, Diwali, Samhein, etc and write an appropriate service. You may find useful information at the following section of the forum:
www.templeofthejediorder.org/forum/Faiths

October 31: Jedi Youngling Day/Pagan Recollection Day

(We enter a dark, stone hall lit with torches, draped in black and blood red velvet hangings. It's all rather ominous, and invokes a feeling of dark power, morbid dread and slow decay. A low drone permeates the area, like distant sustained chanting.)

(Open)

Jedi! Welcome to Pagan Recollection Day! And to a lesser extent, Jedi Youngling Day.
We gather here to recognize the most pagan as well as the most fun of holidays, Halloween, and celebrate it accordingly. So it is entirely appropriate to recollect pagans, past, present and future, and ponder the things that they have contributed to society, and to Jediism in particular.

As for younglings, it is today that younglings can begin the process of choosing a vocation. This is fortuitous for all! We need skilled Jedi in all vocations, all classes. The Jedi, much like most advanced populations, cannot survive without an educated, skilled people to enliven it. This starts with the younglings! So celebrate them! Nurture them! Love them! Help and or guide them! THEY are the future of Jediism, and so by that rationale, we owe it to ourselves to make them the best Jedi they can possibly be, so that our Order shall NEVER die, but live long and prosper! (wild cheering)

And now, I will lead us all in a recitation of the Jedi Code, followed by a recitation of the Sith Code, for balance and harmony between the factions:

(All speaking)

There is no emotion, there is peace.
There is no ignorance, there is knowledge.
There is no passion, there is serenity.
There is no chaos, there is harmony.
There is no death, there is the Force.

(Me again)

Excellent, excellent. And now, Brothers and Sisters, please join me in the recitation of the Sith Code, as taught by Darth Bane:

(Most speaking, but some obviously abstaining)

Peace is a lie, there is only passion.
Through passion, I gain strength.
Through strength, I gain power.
Through power, I gain victory.
Through victory, my chains are broken.
The Force shall free me.

(Me again)

Excellent! I am truly awed by the balance that we find within the Temple. The Jedi within it grow powerful through the Force, powerful indeed. You are free to go, Brothers and Sisters.
May The Force Be With You, Always.

(Exeunt)

September 11: Jedi Remembrance Day

By RyuJin

the ceremony begins outdoors at the flagpole

Begin by having Reveille (a military bugle tune played at the start of the day) playing while performing a flag raising with 3 people to unfurl the flag and a fourth person saluting the flag.

Have those in attendance standing surrounding the flagpole and either saluting (for those in uniform) or placing their hands over their heart.

after the flag ceremony everyone enters the temple/chapel

behind the podium is a long alter with 9 rows of 11 candles, each candle is 4 inches tall and sits in a small glass bowl with a half inch of water in the bottom.

Begin the sermon after the flag ceremony ends and everyone is seated.

Minister: we are gathered here today not only to remember those that died in the attacks of September 11th, but to also honour those who risk their lives to help their fellow man on a daily basis.

We honour not only the brave men and women in uniform, but the everyday citizen that, when their fellow man was in peril, risked their life to lend aid even though they were complete strangers.

These brave souls risk their lives, not for the recognition, but for their love of their community and fellow man.

In a world of danger and violence these brave souls stand as beacons of light in their communities, doing what is right because it is the right thing to do, not because of financial gain.

They demonstrate the ideals of courage and compassion, ideals that every man, woman, and child should strive for.

at this point have a deacon stand to the left of the congregation (to the ministers right)

Minister: i ask now for those of you with family in uniform to step forward for the candle lighting,
as the members come forward the deacon should issue a lit incense to each

Minister: let these candles symbolise the pillars of light that your family members have become.

May their spirit burn as brightly as the light from these candles

May their light serve as a beacon for others
I ask now for the rest come forward to light a candle

as the congregation returns to their seats

Minister: as you go forth from here, remember the examples set by these beacons of light in our community. Let them serve as the standard bearers of courage and compassion.

Be safe,

May the force be with you

Ulambana (Ancestor Day)

By RyuJin

Is celebrated throughout the Mahayana tradition from the first to the fifteenth days of the eighth lunar month. It is believed that the gates of Hell are opened on the first day and the ghosts may visit the world for fifteen days. Food offerings are made during this time to relieve the sufferings of these ghosts. On the fifteenth day, Ulambana or Ancestor Day, people visit cemeteries to make offerings to the departed ancestors. Many Theravadins from Cambodia, Laos and Thailand also observe this festival.

Ulambana is also a Japanese Buddhist festival known as Obon, beginning on the thirteenth of July and lasting for three days, which celebrates the reunion of family ancestors with the living.

This ceremony would be conducted on the last day of the festival.
there would be an alter with the pictures of the congregation's deceased family members, in front of each picture sits an empty bowl or plate. The congregation would be seated at tables, with the families of the deceased seated towards the front, closest to the alter

Minister: we are gathered here on this day to pay tribute to our loved ones that have moved on.
We are not here to mourn their passing, but to celebrate their living, as we remember the love they shared,

the joy they gave, and the memories they left let us not forget that while they may not be here in body, they will live on in our hearts and memories.

Let us, on this day, put their spirits at ease by sharing a meal amongst family and friends.
at this point the food would be brought in

Minister: at this time I ask that the family members of the deceased come forward and prepare a plate.
at this point the family members use the bowl or plate in front of the picture to prepare a plate of food to place before the picture, afterwards they would prepare their own plates. Once the families are seated again

Minister: at this time I ask that the rest of the congregation comes forward to prepare their plates.
once the rest of the congregation is seated

Minister: may this meal set your spirit at ease as you share it with your family and friends, and may it nourish their bodies as they share it with you.

after the ceremony the families would be given the pictures and plates to take home.RyuJinDeacon

April 13- Pure Land Recollection Day

By Jestor

I. Room Decorations

A. Lighting = Dim, Backlit, a lot of indirect lighting

1- black, of course, symbolizing night

2- white, to contrast the black

3- orange, harvest moon, jack-o-lanterns

4- green, accent color such as the orange

B. Smells...

1- smoke, burning wood, campfire-y

C. Decorations

1- Walls adorned with pictures of Santa, Easter Bunny, a menorah, black cats....

2- Various representations of the different symbols, religious, and secular of other rites and beliefs

D. Music-

1-David Sanborn's 'This Masquerade' and similar playing in the background, loud enough to hear, soft enough to speak over

2-Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition' last song before speaking

II. Opening Greetings

1- Stevie said, "When you believe in things, that you don't understand, then you suffer, superstition ain't

the way...."

2-Welcome, fellow PureLand, brothers and sisters of the other Rites, guests, and the merely curious.... May the Force be with Each of You.... Thank you for taking the time to celebrate with me, and each other on this fine day/evening...

2.5-As is the custom, please, take a moment, right now, and greet one another.... In this way, we will no longer meet strangers, only friends, that you have not met..... (pause for greetings)

2.6-let us recite the Jedi Code

The Orthodox Jedi Code

There is no Emotion; There is Peace.

There is no Ignorance; There is Knowledge.

There is no Passion; There is Serenity.

There is no Chaos: There is Harmony.

There is no Death; There is the Force.

--Thank you--

3-We, of the PureLand Rite, are not what we consider a "Superstitious" group.... To us, the celebrations and beliefs of most others are unnecessary, and therefore, we, as a rule do not observe the customs and practices ourselves....

3.5-However, being creatures of habit, we do not mind celebrating with others...

4- Although, we also understand that many do not agree with us and that is their right.... Nor do we dismiss their beliefs as unimportant..... Because, it is important to them....

4.5-This day of celebration for the PureLand, is merely a reason for us all to get together and discuss the differences of each other... It was a day, set aside to be a little silly about, what we consider superstitions....

5- Here is a cute little poem I came across, called....

THINGS I DID FOR LUCK by Andrea Shavick

I crossed my fingers

Crossed my toes

Crossed my eyebrows

Over my nose

I crossed my legs

And then my eyes

I crossed my heart

And hoped to die

But I crossed TOO MUCH

And now I'm stuck

Seems too much crossing

Brings bad luck.

III. Discussion about some Superstitions:

A-Now, I've already said, we are not superstitious, that we do not follow the old traditions for luck, nor

pray to any deity for his or her blessing....

B-We do believe in "The Force", but I believe that it gets proven a little more every day.... The interconnectivity of our planet, that our ancestors surmised, and that the modern man seems to have forgotten, is being rediscovered, little by little, again.....

B.5-Although, some may still see this as superstition as well... This interconnectivity acts as a system...

C-Every day, in oh so many ways, we all exchange thoughts and ideas, traditions, and perspectives, opinions and points of view....

D-For example, Black Cats, dread of cats, especially black cats, first arose in Europe in the Middle Ages, particularly in England. The cat's characteristic independence, willfulness, and stealth, coupled with its sudden overpopulation in major cities, contributed to its fall from grace. Alley cats were often fed by poor, lonely old ladies, and when witch hysteria struck Europe, and many of these homeless women were accused of practicing black magic, their cat companions (especially black ones) were deemed guilty of witchery by association. (source: www.kinrossfolds.com/cattery/superstition.html)

D.5.1 Walking under a ladder, is was the number one superstition in the UK in September 2010, according to Newslite.tv (newslite.tv/2010/09/15/walking-u...ps-su.html)

D.5.2- Obviously for safety reasons it is a bad idea... But superstition-wise, there are "other" reasons... Such as many Christians are believers in the Trinity—that God is made up of three parts, the Holy Father, the Holy Son, and the Holy Ghost (or Holy Spirit). Thus, the number three was somewhat sacred, and the triangle was by association also sacred with its three sides. A ladder leaning up against a building was seen as a triangle (the ladder itself making one side, the building wall making up a second side, and the ground connecting the two making the third side.) To walk through this triangle (by walking under the ladder) was seen as breaking the Trinity. The bible talks about the one unforgivable sin being blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, so someone who breaks the Trinity is seen to be in league with the Devil; and once again, being labeled such in the old days of Christianity was a quick way to invite the hangman and witch trials.

D.5.2.5 Another origin of the superstition was a bit less specific, and had to do with the similarities between a ladder leaning against a wall and a gallows. Anything associated with a gallows was considered ill luck, so walking under one- or a ladder that looked like one- was not advisable. So what to do if you realize you've just walked under a ladder and want to ward off the bad luck? You spit. Either you spit three times through the rungs of the ladder, or you spit on your shoe. Make sure you don't look at your shoe until the spit has dried, however. Failing these tactics, cross your fingers until you find a dog, or simply back out the way you came in and make a wish! (source: www.timelessmyths.co.uk/walking-...adder.html)

D.7.5-Friday the 13th, has many theories as to why it is an unlucky day. According to Wiki and About.com, it seems that it is a combination of two superstitions. The first is the belief that Fridays are unlucky, combined with the thought that the number thirteen is an unlucky number. In numerology, the number twelve is considered the number of completeness, as reflected in the twelve months of the year, twelve signs of the zodiac, twelve hours of the clock, twelve tribes of Israel, twelve Apostles of Jesus, twelve gods of Olympus, etc., whereas the number thirteen was considered irregular, transgressing this completeness. There is also a superstition, thought by some to derive from the Last Supper or a Norse myth, that having thirteen people seated at a table will result in the death of one of the diners. Friday has been considered an unlucky day at least since the 14th century's The Canterbury Tales, and many other professions have regarded Friday as an unlucky day to undertake journeys or begin new

projects. Black Friday has been associated with stock market crashes and other disasters since the 1800s. It has also been suggested that Friday has been considered an unlucky day because, according to Christian scripture and tradition, Jesus was crucified on a Friday. (sources: [en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friday_\(disaster\)](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friday_(disaster)) ... ected=true and urbanlegends.about.com/cs/history/f/13th.htm)

IV- Beliefs

A-This is why we PureLand celebrate April 13, to celebrate our beliefs. April, well, it had no holidays so, what better month to have a holiday to celebrate the lack of superstitions.

B-Our holiday is no more important or better, than any other. A persons beliefs and customs are how he or she gets through in the world.... Who am I to tell another that their beliefs are of less than my own? Heck, I could die tomorrow and find out that the mice DO own the planet.... Well, it's a theory, anyway.....

C-Francis Bacon, Sr. said, "The root of all superstition is that men observe when a thing hits, but not, when it misses; and commit to memory, the one and forget and pass over, the other"

D-Meaning people find what they are looking for. People notice the 1to3 times a year the the 13th falls on a Friday, ignoring the other Fridays and 13th's that appear throughout the year...

E-Superstitions are not all negative, sometimes it is the pattern with which we succeed, such as a ball player wearing his "Lucky Cap". The power of positive thinking enables this player to feel he is fully prepared and as lucky as he can be... Full of luck....

F-Ulysses S. Grant was quoted as saying, "Everyone has their superstitions. One of mine has always been when I start to go anywhere, or do anything, never to turn back or stop until the thing intended was accomplished"

G-Better advice than that, I do not know if I have ever heard...

V. Closing

A-In closing my friends, be courteous, respectful, friendly to one another...

B-Our opinions, our beliefs, our superstitions are different, like the color of our eyes....

C-Superstitions serve more functions than just a reason to be afraid if bad luck....

D- A final poem, also by Andrea Slavick

UNHAPPY ENDING

You can walk under ladders
What's wrong with that?
You can see any number
Of jet black cats
You can break a million mirrors
And I won't shed a tear
It's all just stuff and nonsense
Simply groundless fears

No, you're wrong
And how do I know that it's not superstitious fuss?
I know because I've just been
Run over by a bus

VI Announcements

A. Before we go, I have a few announcements,

A.1 Music fade in soft, not over powering; Coldplay's 'Only Superstition", followed by "I ain't Superstitious" by Willie Dixon

1. Please keep _____ in mind this week as you go about your multitude of tasks...(Prayers for the sick, traveling, etc.)

2. I would like to remind everyone that (Church functions coming up, event, community activities.... Special occasions that are coming up.....)

3. Other community events

C. Go in Peace, all of you....

D. Do your best to be good to one another, there are only six degrees of separation from us all to Kevin Bacon... Which means we are all, moments from one another.....

E. May the Force be with You.....

Jedi United Rite Day **By Mark AnJuu**

The setting: somewhere appropriate with a stage. If this is not possible, then a clear area in front of the audience. The Master of Ceremonies will be wearing appropriate garb (i.e. full robes if possible). Each Rite has its own representative, wearing appropriate garb too. The place can be decorated with flags or fabrics emblazoned with the symbols of the TOTJO, in all colours.

The congregation is seated facing the stage and all rise as the Master of Ceremonies enters and stands centre stage, facing the congregation.

Master of Ceremonies

We are gathered here today for Jedi United Rite Day, to celebrate all religions and all Rites in the spirit of co-operation, compassion and understanding. Within this Order, our Rites are a home for like-minded Jedi, who wish to practice their individual faiths with those whom they feel a fellowship. Yet we are all Jedi and the Rites are not a cause for division but for further exploration and enhancement of the ideals of mutual respect and awareness. Step forward the representatives of the Rites.

In turn, each Rite representative steps forward and stands at the front of the stage, facing the audience and says the following before kneeling down:

Rite Representative

I represent the (insert appropriate name) Rite, with all its practices and ways. I stand amongst you as a Jedi and kneel before you as a servant of the Force.

The representatives of the Rites are now kneeling in front of the stage, facing the audience, arranged in a line. The Master of Ceremonies stands behind them.

Master of Ceremonies

We are a faith of all faiths, a syncretistic following that speaks to the hearts and minds of all humanity. Throughout the world on this very day, people of all beliefs celebrate World Religion Day, whose focus is “the Manifesto for peaceful, active inter-action among the religions.” Through an understanding and empathic acknowledgment of all faiths, we realise the similarities that bind us together as a species. By focusing on these commonalities, we can pull together to resolve the crises that threaten to tear our world apart. For there is a synergy between ourselves, our environment and every other thing in it; a living, dynamic resonance of all that was, all that is and all that will be. As Jedi, we call this the Force. So let us honour this connection and reflect upon the possibilities of all humanity joining in peaceful co-operation.

All reflect in silence as an appropriate song plays (I favour something like “Imagine” by John Lennon).
Master of Ceremonies

Turn now to the people beside you and look them in the eye. Look around at your fellow Jedi and see them for what they are: as individuals bound by a collective understanding. We have our differences but we do not judge; we have our similarities but we do not segregate; we have our faults but we do not admonish too harshly; we have our triumphs and these we share.

Master of Ceremonies beckons all to stand, including the Representatives of the Rites.
Master of Ceremonies

Rise up, one and all for we all stand together, heart to heart, mind to mind, joined in the Living Force, a celebration of all that is possible. Clap, cheer, laugh or cry out...celebrate what you truly are, and that's amazing!

Everybody lets go for a moment, raising positive energies in a joyful celebration!
Master of Ceremonies

As you go from this place, take these energies with you and spread them out into the world. Do something good, give some help, foster this spirit of brother- and sister-hood so that the whole world may join together as we have. Go in peace and May The Force Be With You!

An appropriate song plays as the audience leaves.

Jedi Memorial Day

By Jasper Ward

Possibly in the woods, or in a backyard with a decent sized bonfire. Food and Mead, or wine depending on groups background and tastes on tables.

No chairs, everyone sits around the fire on the ground with each holding a piece of paper containing those that they will miss and are gone.

Cleric: We are here today to Remember and let go our attachment to those who are gone, while their guidance and teachings will be a part of us forever, we are here to let them soar free from our own wants and our own needs. They are one with the force and we miss them, and while we will not forget them We let go of our attachment and personal wants and let their being soar.

With me please recite the Jedi Code with me:

All:There is no Emotion; there is Peace.

There is no Ignorance; there is Knowledge.

There is no Passion; there is Serenity.

There is no Death; there is the Force.

Cleric: Now we will go around the fire and one at a time tell us about the people on you're paper, how they affected you're life and how you will always remember them, feel free to include any stories

Looks to right and asks the first person to begin

After everyone is done, ask everyone to enjoy the food and wine and let everyone know that they are free to continue the stories and festivities till the fire burns down

Select a rite-specific feast day (this may or may not also be a TOTJO feast day) and write an appropriate service

Jedi Day of Reflection

By Jasper Ward

Place: Doesn't really matter as long as there is room for everyone and lighting control. Room should be dimmed to a darkened state with candles and possibly fire if there is a fireplace.

Cleric: We are here today on the first day of this new year to reflect on the passing of the last year. Time passes, deeds are done... regrets, ambitions, these things sometimes manifest in us as things we aimed to accomplish this last year yet did not, or even things we didn't expect to face, yet we did and are here now, some that were here last year may not be here this year, and yet there may be new among us as well. The world is ever changing, our situations constantly fluid, though we may not always like to admit it.

We are here today to reflect on this last year to think about the lesson's learned, the pains felt, the dreams accomplished, the dreams we watched fly away... We are here to reflect, and let go of all this from the past as it is just that... past

This is a new year, as every day is a new day, this is our new day, to shed the weights and burdens that we pile on ourselves and let go so that we can walk freely in this new year

I ask all of you to now spend a few minutes in silence letting you're mind do as it pleases with these thoughts, and when you are done, let all of it go and cleanse you're mind and intentions

....Silence for a few minutes

Raises Lights to Signify the new day

Ok, now when you have time today, do not wait for tomorrow for this as tomorrow is a new day as well and you never know what will come, spend some time in meditation, and cleanse yourself, try to do this everyday if you can as to give yourself the freedom you deserve each day, remember this and have a wonderful day

Dismisses the group

International Jedi Day Service

By Darren

Location: Either in a Hall with Windows or (Preferably) Outdoors, in a Natural Area

Colors to be Hung: Whites, Blues, Greens, Yellows, and Browns

Ambient music plays quietly.

Seating: When indoors, members should all face the same direction, to the "front," where the speaker will stand (behind some sort of podium), much like traditional Abrahamic services. When outdoors, seating should be arranged in a circle around a fire. The speaker would then move around the fire as he speaks.

Congregation (and Speaker) should wear Star Wars style Jedi robes, as it is a celebration of the Star Wars franchise.

The service begins with the Speaker gathering everyone's attention, asking conversations to taper to an end.

The Speaker then asks then congregation to repeat the Jedi Code.

The Congregation repeats the Code.

The Speaker then says:

"We are gathered here today to celebrate the Star Wars series, from which we, as Jedi, take our name sake. Sadly, it is through that image that the world views us. Many would automatically assume that a real world "Jedi" is someone who plays with a lightsaber and wears brown robes. We are here today dressed as Star Wars Jedi. We must see the similarities and differences between the two.

The Jedi Knights of the Star Wars universe travel their galaxy helping those in need, often using their wit, knowledge, wisdom, more than their lightsaber. Is this all that different from what we Jedi of the Temple do? We do not have the technology to travel the galaxy or to wield plasma swords, but, if you see someone in need of your help, do you not do your utmost to assist them? If not, the Jedi path may not be for you.

It is not the title of Jedi Knight that makes you a true Jedi: it is your deeds and your actions.

Based on this definition of Jedi, one who helps people to the best of their ability, one who has a care and connection with the universe, could we not say that we are Jedi with or without the titles? The names? This is what separates us from the Jedi of the Star Wars franchise. We do not need lightsabers, robes, intergalactic travel: we can help people here, on Earth, with nothing my our minds and bodies. We are one with the Force."

The Speaker recites the Jedi Creed.

The Congregation repeats the Creed.

"We have dressed today as Star Wars Jedi. Many of us, if not all, are fans of the Star Wars media. But we

as real Jedi, know that this image is not what it means to be a Jedi. Take a moment and contemplate your journey down the path of the Jedi so far. Have you done what you can to improve the world? Have you stayed true to yourself and the rest of the Order? Is your connection with the Force good? Can you say to yourself, without a doubt, "Oath or no oath, Knighthood or not, I am a Jedi."?

Take a moment to consider these things.

Now, this is not to say that we should divide ourselves completely from the Star Wars Jedi and say "That is what we're not." By all means, have your robes, have your lightsabers: it's all in good fun. But remember always what it means to truly be a Jedi.

May the Force be with you all, and guide you on your paths."

The Congregation replies "And with you."

Food is served on a pot-luck buffet (to keep costs low), and the attending members socialize around the fire (provided the service is outdoors).

Christmas Service

By Darren

Location: A Large Room or Hall, preferably with a Fireplace

Colors to be Hung: Whites, Greens, Reds, Blues, Greens, Yellows

Other Decorations: A Fir Tree Devoid of Any Decoration Other than a Star at the Top

Soft, Ambient Christmas Music Plays

The Congregation should sit in two half-circle rows on one side of the unadorned tree. The Speaker will face them, standing between the tree and the Congregation.

Members of the Congregation and the Speaker should bring a Tree Decoration of some significance to them.

Members of the Congregation and should also bring some sort of meaningful passing gift.

The service begins with the Speaker gathering everyone's attention, asking conversations to taper to an end.

The Speaker then asks then congregation to repeat the Jedi Code.

The Congregation repeats the Code.

The Speaker then says:

"Welcome everyone. We are gathered here today in celebration of Christmas, of the Abrahamic Christian Rite. It is also the anniversary of the foundation of the Temple of the Jedi Order.

Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ, who is accepted by Christians as the Son of God. The teachings of Jesus are not only applicable to Christians, however: it is not beliefs that make a good person, but actions. In many ways, Jesus can be viewed as a Jedi. He loved all, helped those in need, and spread hope, faith, and the like.

Christians believe that Jesus was the Son of God. He was God's flesh embodiment, here on Earth. He did only good, did not sin, and was perfect. At the end of his life he sacrificed himself to crucifixion in order to save the souls of all of humanity. Self-sacrifice for the betterment of life is important to a Jedi, whether that sacrifice is of time, money, or in extreme cases, an actual sacrifice of life to save another. All Jedi must be prepared to do this. Not all Jedi will get the chance to save the world, as Christ did in dying on His Cross, but all Jedi must view it as a possibility.

For all intents and purposes, Jesus Christ was a great Jedi. His self-sacrifice was more than many of us will ever get the chance to do."

The Speaker recites the Jedi Creed.

The Congregation repeats the Creed.

On repetition of the "For it is in giving that we receive." line, the member of the Congregation should pass their gifts 5 people to the right (this number can be adjusted depending on the attendance).

"Take a moment to examine what you have received. As Jedi, it is our duty to give all that we can to the Universe, in the name of the Force. "For it is in giving that we receive."

You've all been asked to bring an ornament of some significance with you. These will be hung on the tree behind me, and will symbolically represent what each of us brings to the Temple."

The Congregation, one by one, brings their ornaments up to adorn the tree.

"I'd like to close by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas. May you all fulfill your purpose within the Force, and may it guide you on your paths."

Potluck Christmas Feast time, and Congregation socialization.

Christmas

By Damion Storm

Set-up – Mild Christmas decorations mainly ribbons and candles

Ceremony –

Cleric – Welcome on this Holy day where we give our thanks for the birth of our Savior. He that was born for us to teach and guide our path. He also that died that we all may live. Let us pray.

Opening blessing – Informal

Reading 1 – Luke 2:1-7

Play or Sing – Away in a Manger

Reading 2 – Luke 2:8-14

Play or sing – Come, all ye Shepherds

Reading 3 – Mathew 2:10-11

Play or sing – We 3 Kings

Cleric – In these days it is easy to get caught up in the holiday season with shopping and parties. But on this day take the time to remember why we are all here. Forget about the stores and the sales. Forget about the trees and the decorations. Instead let us remember that it is not the receiving of gifts that make this day special but in the giving of ourselves. Just as the shepherds gave gifts to the new born child may we all give gifts to our neighbors, families, and friends. Do not suppose that I ask you to give physical gifts for even the poorest person can give the richest gift of love and kindness. On this day enjoy the feast that you share with your loved ones and forget about your wants and desires and spend this day serving someone else. Let us pray.

Closing Blessing – informal

Cleric – Please feel free to fellowship with each other and give thanks to everyone for joining us here.

Jedi Memorial Day Service

By Damion Storm

Outdoor Service

Set-up: A bonfire/campfire built (but not lit) in the front in a half pyramid shape. (Pyramid with a flat top instead of a point). A pulpit or table placed next to the fire with a black ribbon on it.

Seating placed on either side of a path leading to the fire. At the start of the path, a table/stump or some other object with which to place a book and marked “We come from the force” and a plank or sign attached to the fire which reads “We return to the Force”.

Entrance – As members arrive they are to record in the book the name and a brief thought for a person who has passed since the previous memorial service. If none are known a general thought could be added. Members will then take a seat to prepare for the opening.

Ceremony –

MC (from the back by table) – Rise and lift your eyes to the stars

-All Members rise and look up

MC (Lifts the book) – In this journal the names of our fellow beings are recorded just as they are recorded in our hearts and minds. They all started just as ourselves and drew their life energy from the force.

-MC begins walking down the path

MC – From our births we walk the path to rejoin the light of the living force once again. Some paths are long and some short. Some are easy and some a challenge. While some paths are lonely others are full. We are all one with the Force and through it ...

MC - There is no Emotion;

ALL - There is Peace.

MC - There is no Ignorance;

ALL - There is Knowledge.

MC - There is no Passion;

ALL - There is Serenity.

MC - There is no Chaos:

ALL - There is Harmony.

At this time the MC should be at the front of the members by the fire.

MC – Please be seated.

-Members sit

MC – At this time we celebrate our friends, families, and others who have touched us through the years that have rejoined the living force. They have entered a new existence with which to help guide us until it is our turn to move on. At this time I shall read the names of those entered in our journal that all can remember. As each entry is read please reply as appropriate.

MC (Reads the first entry and says) – There is no death;

ALL – There is the Force

Repeat for each entry

MC (after all entries are read) – Are there any other names to be added at this time?

-If any response the name is entered into the book and MC will respond “There is no death” as previously done.

MC (lifts the ribbon) – With this ribbon we bind the Book a symbol of the memories we bind in our hearts. We will not forget and we should not mourn but give thanks to them and the guidance they gave.

MC (Places the book on the pyramid) – We place the book here as the final resting place for the journey through this physical existence.

MC – As we light the fire let us all remember that we all rejoin the living Force. As we join it we will help keep the light burning for those that follow. Where there is darkness; light.

MC – May the Force be with us all.

The end of the ceremony may then be followed by a meal, snacks, or fellowship around the fire.

Jediism Rite Recollection Day

By Akkarin

Service would be held in mid-morning, outside if the weather permitted otherwise it would be located inside. Mats would be laid out for people to sit on, with the speaker at the front of the arrangement

Soft music (trance/meditation/relaxation etc) would be playing as people gathered and took their places. Once people were gathered the music would drop to a lower and softer volume and the service would begin:

MYSELF: Good day to everyone and may The Force be with you all

THEM: And Also with you

MYSELF: Today is April 13th. This day we celebrate and recognise as the Jediism Rite Recollection Day

MYSELF: The reason for this day is to remember the shortfalls of human nature and the abuse of power that has occurred in the past so that we ensure to learn from humanity's past mistakes such that we never repeat them

MYSELF: Throughout the many 1000s of years of documented religious activity, and no doubt the 100's of 1000s of years prior, religion has been used to justify just about every single possible atrocity that can be thought of

MYSELF: Consider the murderous crusades, the unfair and horrendous nature that women have been treated with in the past, the terrorist attacks and murderous religious dictatorships. Religion can be used as a tool of great evil

MYSELF: But that is just it. It can be used as an excuse. Religion itself simply allows someone to have purpose, happiness and even community and love. It is these things that we need to ensure are the focal points of our spiritual lives and teachings

MYSELF: Too often is one's own opinion spoken to be as fact, too often are innocent lives and people's natural rights infringed upon because of the prejudices and hatred of someone in power

MYSELF: Today is when we recognise that this needs to stop.

MYSELF: I want to take a brief pause now for you all to spend some time thinking. Thinking about some prejudice that has harmed someone in the name of religion or some evil that was justified by personal hate

PAUSE FOR SEVERAL MINUTES. In this time the music would increase in volume to give people something to think/meditate to. Towards the end of an appropriate length of time the music would lower in volume and the service would continue:

MYSELF: Now I want you to feel pity for all those involved, The person who suffered and the person that inflicted the suffering. May The Force be with them

MYSELF: It is not through hate that we can achieve anything. It is not through the infliction of pain that we can make any lasting change. Compassion and understanding are the only ways that we can make a lasting change. Bringing happiness and dispelling irrational fears and hatred is at the very heart of Jediism and always shall be

READS OUT PREPARED VERSION OF JEDI BELIEVE:

Jedi Believe:

- ♣ In the inherent worth of every person. People are worthy of respect, support, and caring simply because they are human.
- ♣ In working towards a culture that is relatively free of discrimination on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, national origin, degree of ability, age, etc.
- ♣ In the sanctity of the human person. We oppose the use of torture and cruel or unusual punishment including the death penalty. 1
- ♣ In the importance of democracy within religious, political and other structures.
- ♣ In the separation of church and state; and the freedoms of speech, association, and expression. 2
- ♣ That the systems of truth in the field of morals, ethics, and religious belief that we have studied are not absolute: they vary by culture, by religion, and over time.
- ♣ In the generally positive influence that most religions have had on their followers and on society. 3
- ♣ In the importance of individual believers determining evil influences and policies within their chosen faith group, and advocate for their correction.
- ♣ In the importance of education. We believe that people are not truly educated unless they have studied at least the world's major religions and ethical systems. They need to learn of the good and bad impacts they have had on society. 4

Footnotes, mainly about exceptions:

1. However, like the rest of North American society, we have not been able to reach a consensus about when human life, in the form of a spermatozoon and an ovum, becomes a human person deserving civil rights.
2. However we have not been able to reach a consensus about the age at which an individual should fully enjoy these freedoms. We also recognize that some of these freedoms should have limits. For example, we do not feel that, in most cases, parents should be allowed to let their children die if medical treatment will assure a cure. We do not feel that individuals should be free to advocate genocide or yell "fire" in a crowded theatre.
3. Exceptions are a handful of destructive cults which have had an overall negative effect.
4. They need to understand the religious sources that inspired Gandhi, Albert Schweitzer, and Mother Teresa to commit their life to the alleviation of human suffering. But they also need to learn the shadow side of religion: how religious beliefs have contributed to hatred, intolerance, oppression, discrimination, as well as mass murders and genocides in such places as Nazi Germany, Bosnia, East Timor, Kosovo, Northern Ireland, the Middle East, Sudan and countless other countries.

MYSELF: That is what it means to be a Jedi. That is what we believe

MYSELF: Religion can be a powerful tool, for good and evil. As Jedi we must learn how to use the power we have and the power we instil in others to the best benefit of everyone around us

MYSELF: Let us take some time today to ensure that our cause remains pure. That we meditate on what we believe and the reasons for our actions. I want you to reflect on when you think you might have faltered. I do not blame you, after all to err is to be human, but we are Jedi and Jedi learn from their mistakes

MYSELF: When we recognise a mistake we must acknowledge our wrong doing and own up to it, asking forgiveness from those we have harmed

MYSELF: That is a true tenant of Jediism and that is how we can ensure that we prevent history from being repeated

MYSELF: Today I want us to remember our faults and our potential faults. I want us to think about religiously inspired intolerance and to consider the fact that all religious organisations have the potential to cause suffering because of a few

MYSELF: I want you all to acknowledge your shortcomings and overcome them, teach compassion, understanding, forgiveness and Love to one another and we will never falter

MYSELF: Today is when we recognise the human potential to be evil but equally understand and help realise what can be done to prevent such a thing and ensure that if it does happen we make reparations for our actions

MYSELF: So go now and make reparations for your actions, spend the time contemplating how you might better yourself and your fellows. Say you're sorry, send letters of apology and remind yourself never to fall to the more sinister and selfish sides of human nature

MYSELF: Let us not repeat the mistakes of the past

MYSELF: May The Force be with you all

THEM: And also with you

SERVICE CONCLUDES. Music increases in volume as people get up to leave

N.B. Again as with my previous service, I focus more on getting people to think and consider than anything else. Rituals are good and all, but I don't want the focus to be on the ritual, I want the focus to be on the good of what we do because of that ritual...

September 11: Jedi Remembrance Day

By Akkarin

My service would be held in the evening around sunset. I would have light meditation/trance/soothing music playing that contained no lyrics so people were not distracted. I would ideally have a fountain with water running so that people could concentrate on the seamless noise around them while they relaxed/meditated

I, and others who arrived early, would be meditating and awaiting the arrival of others who wanted to listen in. When the time came and the rest had arrived I would lower the volume of the music but continue playing it softly in the background. I would have a gong placed beside myself so that I could use it to get people's attention and as a general 'signalling' device

The space in front of me (inside if it was bad weather) would be lots of cushioned mats instead of chairs. This adds a little informality to it, which I would hope makes people more relaxed. A table with a box of candles is located to the side of me

I would hit the gong to indicate that it was time to begin and members would take their place on their mats. Once they were seated I would begin:

MYSELF: Good evening and may The Force be with you all

THEM: And also with you

MYSELF: Today is September 11th. Today was, in 2001, the day of a massive terrorist attack on the USA that claimed thousands of lives and ultimately resulted in destroying many more

MYSELF: But we are not here to mourn them, indeed they live on through their families, through memories and through The Force

MYSELF: Today I want to remember all those who go out there every day to keep us safe, provide for us, protect us and do their utmost to promote peace and safety and love to all

MYSELF: How often do we take the time to sit and think about the work done by our emergency services? How often do they put their lives at risk so they can help someone in need? How many times per day do they go out of their way to do save someone in need?

MYSELF: Today is for them –gong sounds-

MYSELF: But there are more than just those that work in the emergency services of course. I can only list but a few but we also have our brave men and women in the armed forces that help safeguard human rights that are intrinsic to all and let us not forget that many consider their family and friends to also be living heroes

MYSELF: Can you now think of someone who has helped you in some way? Perhaps it was just a kind word when you needed on, someone to talk to, offer advice? Perhaps it was even a stranger you never learned the name of who took some time out of their day to help you?

MYSELF: Remember that to the whole world you might be just one person. But to one person you might be the whole world... -gong sounds-

MYSELF: Be the living hero and remember, each day, those that are just that!

MYSELF: I invite you all now to come up here and take a candle –scented ones available- and with it spend some time this evening thinking upon what it means to be a living hero and who has been a hero to yourself in your life

MYSELF: This space will be available for use if you wish to meditate in peace and with the light of the sunset coming down

PRAYER FROM LITURGY BOOK (topic is awakening the hero within)

MYSELF: May The Force be with them, and also with you all

THEM: And also with you –gong sounds-

Music starts up again louder as people get up to get their candles and slowly leave

CEREMONY CONCLUDES



The Collected Works of TOTJO and Its Members

*Prepared by Phortis Nespin
Knight Deacon of the Order*

